

bristle

ISSUE 22 SUMMER 2006

FIGHTING TALK FROM BRISTOL AND THE SOUTH WEST

£1.20

we carry another world in our hands
INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY!



Also inside:

First Bus campaign

STOP THE WAR

Severn Beach Railway

Royce Rolls at 25

BRISTOL AIRPORT EXPANSION

SLAVERY

No Borders

Interview with Stuart Christie

JAMES LOVELOCK

V for Vendetta

Glastonbury Festival

DJ DEREK

...and much, much more!!

bristle

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Please send us articles etc
for Bristle 23



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WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Bristle is a 'quarterly' magazine that has generally come out about three times a year since 1997 The mag is produced by a voluntary collective and we always welcome help with editing and layout, written contributions, graphics, distribution, fund-raising, enthusiasm and bad jokes.

CALLING ALL DESIGNERS /DESK TOP PUBLISHERS!

We are currently particularly short of designer/DTPers. We'd love to hear from you. Bristle meets every fortnight at 5.30 on alternate Sundays at Kebele, 14, Robertson Road, Easton, Bristol, BS 5 6JY. Email us to confirm exact dates (editors@bristle.org.uk). Informal chats and food at the Kebele Kafe afterwards.

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Sell 10 copies to your mates and get your copy free. (See the best things in life really are free.)

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Bath

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Frome

Frome Wholefoods (Cheap St)

Glastonbury

Hemp in Avalon (Market Place)

London

www.actedistribution.org and 56A Infoshop (56 Crampton St, SE17)

Taunton

Martian Records (Bridge St), Rooster Records (East St)

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SEND IT TO US WITH THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

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editorial: fighting fit

Welcome to the new 'bio-nicked' Bristle – fitter, faster and stronger than ever! Thanks to all the contributors who've made this issue the bumper book of rebellion, rallying and rage you've been crying out for all summer.

As always, there's been plenty of action on the streets of Bristol since our last issue came out. Bristol Indymedia has cemented its reputation as the last bastion of free speech, after it's brave stance on allowing articles to stay on the site despite immense pressure from the state. It now needs your help more than ever, both in terms of contributions and in practical defence of the collective against fascist intimidation. Yep, in case you hadn't noticed, the Nazi's are making another ill-fated attempt to gain support in our community.

BRISTOL NEEDS YOU to resist this invasion of filthy violence-seekers and jack-booted in-breeders! Every time you see one of their sick stickers, get your key out and scratch it off. If you see any fascist activity then post the info on Indymedia. Most importantly however, make it clear in word and deed that we welcome all cultures into our community – Bristol is not part of England, it's part of the world and the only borders are ones we artificially create!

By the time you read this, Ingerland's World Cup adventure will be over, for better or worse. Some of us editors are big footie fans (most are definitely not!) but it's becoming harder and harder to separate the Beautiful Game from the corporate stranglehold that threatens to cut it off from the true working class fans that keep the clubs going "through the wind and rain". As ever though, hope always finds a way and the true spirit of the game lives on – whether it's on the packed terraces of St. Pauli, in the hearts of the Easton Cowboys and Cowgirls, or in the eyes of the kids having a kickabout on Packers Field. Sport in itself is not a bad thing! It can be a force for good, a universal language that unites Bristol with Chiapas, promotes Columbian Solidarity, celebrates the anti-olympian spirit or just gets kids off the couch and out of the house. Get involved with an anarchist sporting event near you – if there isn't one, set one up!

Anyway, us Editors are off for a well-earned game of ping-pong. Hope to see you at one of the many 'right-on' festivals over the summer that need your support – 'ave a good 'un, remember your sun hats and keep on shining you crazy diamonds! ~ the bristle collective



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LIAR

LIAR



KNICKERS
ON
FIRE

bristle book comments



Our bestseller last month, 50 more copies please
~ Arnolfini Bookshop

Bristle has crammed some of the best in
local street art into a book ~ Venue mag

...wry, subversive, often witty, often funny...
~ The Spark

Nice!
~ Banksy

We'll take another 100 copies in Bristol
~ Fopp

The murals are absolutely stunning, not
least the one for Mayday 2000
~ Last Hours zine

It's a book with photos in it
~ Smart git on Libcom.org

Absolutely no comment
~ the corporate press, the cops
& Bristol Shity Council

Last few left

see www.bristle.org.uk for ordering info

THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT REFUSES TO LIE DOWN — EXCEPT TO DO DIE-INS!

Three years after the disastrous invasion and occupation of Iraq, the West Country is still a hotbed of anti-war activism. The extent of the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan is also becoming clearer each day. Furthermore official denials of a forthcoming US/UK attack upon Iran suggest that we should all be vigilant about this very possibility!

Many West Country campaigners joined the tens of thousands marching in London against the invasion and occupation of Iraq on March 18th. There were fears that after the Hutton Enquiry, the BBC would be more timid in the face of government pressure when covering the Iraq issue. The failure to report this national demonstration appears to confirm that the BBC news is now showing more caution and some expedient self-censorship. Bristol Stop the War responded with a hundred-strong march to the BBC offices in Whiteladies Road on April 4th. This local march 'attracted attention and some answers from the BBC', writes Bristle's Amanda WJ, who continues:

'When accused of becoming more and more right wing and being under pressure from the government regarding news coverage they simply waved off the remarks and denied both accusations with some indifference. Strangely enough, the official who spoke at the Whiteladies Road demo insisted that there had been coverage on News 24, but another official at the London offices said that it was not covered at all, as the number of people present was not enough to make newsworthy.' Increased tension about the eerily familiar stand-off between the Bush administration and Iran has now extended the focus of attention. International protests took place on 6th May.

Jim Kinnaird reports:

'Over 100 people met on Saturday 6th May at 1pm opposite the Hippodrome in Bristol city centre to protest against the UK and US governments' threats to Iran. Speakers invited by the Bristol Stop the War Coalition denounced western hypocrisy over Iran's nuclear programme. The crowd cheered when two of the speakers called for a campaign of mass civil disobedience to derail the present government's policy in the Middle East.'

A further report was received from a comrade in Bath:

'Starting from the 12.30 close of the weekly SWC vigil outside Bath Abbey, around 30 protestors marched through the city centre, behind banners proclaiming: 'The War On Terror™ – Filling Graves Since 2002' and 'Don't Attack Iran', beneath fluttering black and red pennants. A growing campaign of stencilling and fly posting managed to bring together a selection of faces – some usual suspects, some not: anarchists, socialists, CND, students, greens, animal rights activists and unaffiliated others. Outside HSBC we staged die-ins representing possible war victims, whilst leafletters took part in face-to-face discussions with passers-by and no longer allowed for any illusions about this bank's involvement with the mass murder of the arms trade, nor its recent dodgy acquisition of the National Bank of Iraq. The march then continued to the Esso station on Lower Bristol Road, drawing the obvious parallels between oil and war in the Middle East... and another die-in. Passing traffic beeped their support. Across the road to BMT – such an innocent sounding set of initials,

concealing that particular company's contribution to death around the world, through its naval ships and nuclear-capacity submarines. And let's not forget the military land vehicles manufactured and exported courtesy of Locksbrook Road's Horstman Defence Systems. Shrugging off the laughable intimidation and half-baked legal bluffs of two accompanying police, we made our way back to city centre.

As the opening momentum for this new chapter of our opposition to yet another facet of the US/UK administrations' Eternal War wet dream, the turnout was inspiring, considering the grey skies, and there's now some fresh excitement in the air... Maybe, despite the scare stories and background chatter of nuclear aggression, for this war, we might actually achieve our stated aim: Stop The War! Whose world? It's our fucking world, and don't forget it!

Coaches will be leaving from Bristol for the next national demonstration in Manchester on Sat 23rd September 2006.

Bristol Stop The War Coalition meet every Thursday at:
Easy T's Café, 20-21 Lower Park Row, Bristol.
(bristolstopwar@hotmail.com)

For details of Bath meetings, visit: www.bathstopwar.org.uk



Five years after the September 11th attack and the launch of the 'War on Terror' in 2001 the daily peace vigil in Bristol city centre remains a strong public presence in the struggle against all mass killings, imperialism and militarism.



bath wall stencil

NO BORDERS
demonstration



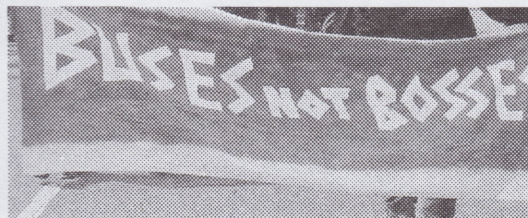
Over 2,000 men, women and children are currently locked away in Britain's jails with no date set for release. Their crime? Wanting a better life for them and their family. In the face of a growing right-wing hate campaign, these people are being stripped of their humanity and beaten down, under a veil of secrecy and racist state policy. Bristol activists (left) attended a demonstration to highlight this injustice at Colnbrook detention centre, and support the No Borders campaign.

More info: www.noborders.org
www.ncadc.org.uk



In a carnival atmosphere, 200 people protested against First in Bristol on 22 April

Picture: Reclaim the buses



Anti-boss banner on the 22 April protest

Picture: Bristol

RECLAIM THE BUSES

Most of us have a bus horror story to relay. If you're lucky enough for the bus to turn up at all in Bristol it's usually late and you'll need to take out a mortgage for the fares.

Reclaim the Buses is a grassroots campaign of Bristolians angry with the appalling lack of route coverage, extortionate fares and the dire treatment of drivers of the city's First buses. While we suffer, First's fat cat bosses get richer. The campaign began in February with a public meeting on Gloucester Road, attended by over 80 people. Since then, the campaign has been meeting regularly to plan and take action. The aim is to build a local movement to give the long-suffering passengers of Bristol the opportunity to protest against their ill treatment and neglect at the hands of First and their shareholders.




A similar campaign in Sheffield began last August, and that group has already forced the Council to pass a motion of no confidence in First Bus, with even Tory councillors pushing for greater regulation of the buses. Reclaim the Buses hopes for similar success in Bristol and will be continuing to lobby, raise awareness and protest in the future. The campaign urges you to get involved in any way you can to add your voice and support. Watch out for posters and leaflets in your area.

CONTACTS:

www.reclaimthebuses.org

reclaimbristolsbuses@gmail.com

reclaim the buses have
three simple demands:

-  Better services, accessible and affordable to all
-  Better pay and conditions for bus workers
-  A publicly accountable and publicly owned bus service run for people not profit

Sustainable transport is the future, but Bristol councillors stuck in the past

Thatcher's vision of a car-owning democracy is truly alive in Bristol, and it turns out to be an unsustainable nightmare. Environmentally unsustainable, our transport system causes global warming and damages the local environment through road-building and pollution. Socially unsustainable, it penalises people who are too poor to buy a car, and forces everyone to live with stress-inducing traffic jams. Financially unsustainable too – Bristol businesses agree that congestion currently costs the Bristol economy £350 million each year, and road accidents are costing Bristol over £1.8 million each week. Big cities like London, Newcastle and Manchester have recognised the need for decent public transport, why can't Bristol?

Everyone knows what Bristol needs: affordable, frequent, reliable bus and local train services that serve the whole city. Instead, Bristol City Council (BCC) spend money on park and rides, showcase bus routes, a 'car sharing' scheme and outside consultants with no democratic mandate to make decisions. In March the new Liberal Democrat-led Council reduced the Council budget for buses and trains, getting rid of several bus routes and withdrawing the entire local rail subsidy (despite pre-election promises to prioritise rail), threatening services such as the famous Severn Beach line.

The ghost of Thatcherism

Why? It cannot be justified in terms of saving money. Consultants cost a lot, and so will the new South Bristol ring road. No, it is a matter of ideology. Councillors resist sustainable, long term public transport solutions and favour car orientated 'free market' ones. The ghost of Thatcherism (Thatcher famously said that anyone over the age of 26 on a bus was a failure) haunts the corridors of BCC. They don't really take public transport seriously. Perhaps they feel that buses and trains were never intended for successful people like themselves?

Politicians are learning to say 'sustainability', even if most of them don't know what it means. Ironically, the Joint Local Transport Plan, produced by BCC and three other councils, has the answer to Bristol's transport problems: 'Central to tackling congestion is providing viable alternatives to the car.' But does the council recognize the problem with demand-led transport policy? Inadequate public transport is underused because everyone who can afford a car buys one, under use leads to service cuts, which further reduce demand.

The role of government should be to break this familiar vicious circle. But the 'Green' Lib Dems, like their Labour predecessors, are afraid to take their own analysis seriously. On some level they still believe in the 'car-owning democracy', and they think voters do too. They prefer to respond to 'demand' for road building, to spend time and money on consultants, anything but take responsibility and face up to the Thatcherite ghost in the corridor.

Contact: FOSBR, 17 Belmont Road, Bristol, BS6 5AW

www.fosbr.org.uk info@fosbr.org.uk

For campaign updates keep checking Bristol Indymedia



Redland station on the Severn Beach line - needs more trains!

Photo: FOSBR

Balham Hill Farm Squat

Balham Hill Farm, Chiselbough, was squatted this Easter in protest against a planned sell off by Somerset County Council. Squatters reopened the popular farm shop (the only shop in the village) and cafe, with unanimous local support.

County farms like Balham Hill exist to provide land at low rents to new farmers who can't afford to buy. Ignoring government advice, Somerset County Council plans to sell off 45 out of its 75 sites and amalgamate the rest into large 'conventional' farms. It can cash in selling agricultural land as playgrounds for the rich. Small farms with houses are popular as country manors, and small farmers get priced out. At the same time, this apparently cash strapped council recently ploughed fifty grand into a 'feasibility study' for a local food initiative centre, half of which is coming directly from the sale of farms.

Last year, LibDem council leader Cathy Bakewell told a Chiselborough Parish Council protest meeting against the farm sale that, 'farming is dead.' But county farms remain popular and profitable. Off the record, many Somerset councillors and officials don't support the sell offs, so Somerset council exec put a gagging order on councillors during the protest to silence debate. This didn't stop Balham Hill Farm occupation from forcing the council to stop the planned auction, temporarily saving the farm from being divided up for expensive pony paddocks.

Protestors left the farm on 12 May after being served with an eviction order, saying they had made their point. The bid to save the farm, (proposed by an unlikely alliance of Tories and squatters), was finally lost at a full council meeting on May 17, voted down by the LibDem majority, smirking and giggling like schoolkids. As a leaving present, protestors planted a Judas tree in the front garden of the County Hall.

Royce Rolls has been an oasis for chance meetings and flapjack dunking in Bristol city centre for 25 years. Outside London it was first vegetarian cafe to open in the country. It's also been a valuable community resource offering space to publicise local campaigns, initiatives and events. Owner Chris looks back on a life less ordinary.

'Flaming pie...'

You're too young to recall this reference?

A man came down on a flaming pie and said, "From this day on you shall be called the 'Silver Beatles'". John Lennon's response to how they got to be called the Beatles! (I was at same school as George and Paul Beate...)

What inspired me?

I had started making a few rolls for 'Bushel' Wholefoods (now sadly defunct) in the market. I used to experiment, mixing flour until I came up with the current blend which has been my special/unique recipe for the Rolls for 27 years.

I supplied Bushel for a while, but, when the Corn Exchange was opened as a market, I decided to open a place of my own in what is now called the 'South Arcade'; previously the 'Bar area' or just 'Royce Rolls' bit!

The Corn Exchange had previously been used just occasionally for dances, ('Chinese Blues Club' in early sixties, featured Rolling stones/Rod Stewart, John Lee Hooker...!!) roller skating (on that lovely parquet floor!!) and Friday antique market.

I've always wanted to sell good tasting food that I myself would want to buy, and at reasonable prices. No additives, local produce, with flavour and taste. The coffee is my own blend too, as is the tea and we currently have 68 choices of Infusions ('Herbal' teas) which people used to wonder at years ago, before it became more 'normal'! Fairtrade produce has always been available from us too as obviously we're environmentally aware. (I was quite involved in Ecology in the 70s!) Can't remember the sixties? As the old joke goes...

The pleasure we get from giving people really good food with flavour, texture, interesting combinations, is the main ethos of why we trade. Rachel Palmer deserves a special mention for being my manager for the past 14 years! Runs it with more energy than her old/aging boss can muster!

Creating a good ambience was also an aim; for 20 years we set up and managed the seating area, creating a friendly/quirky area that people used to enjoy. Peaceful, child-friendly, cosy, breast feeding friendly... then the Market manager in his unimaginative way, made the area into a wind tunnel (by removing a wall at the end of the cul-de-sac) and removed the seating area from our control, putting the current crap seating in place! So much for 20 years of loyal service here! (If you don't like it, you can always leave' was a response, would you believe!)

Another aspect is playing music. Music and Hi-Fi is my main interest (outside sex and Man Utd...) so I try to have interesting music playing (or off, if people want silence!)

Personally I feel very aggrieved at the poor management we've endured here for most of my stay. Combination of arrogance and incompetence is rather galling! We're rarely, if ever, consulted about anything, yet WE are the market! It SHOULD be a Partnership, not a dictatorship run by inadequates!

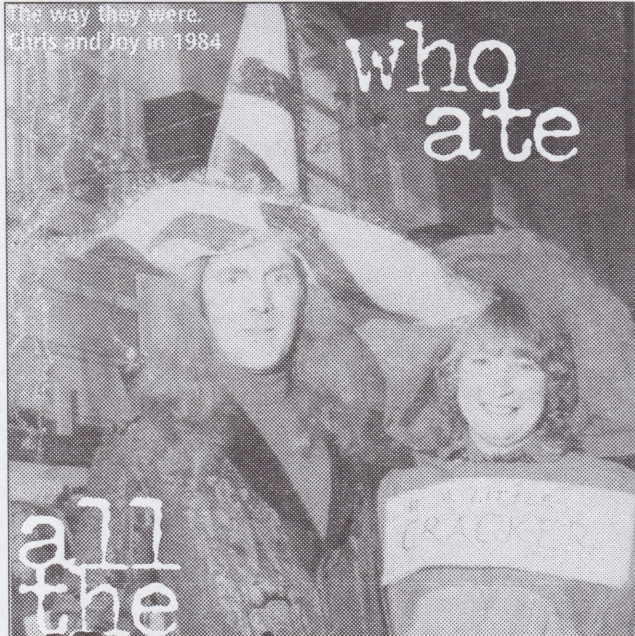
But; my 27 years here have produced many heartwarming encounters with myriad customers to help off-set this depressing state of affairs.

Meeting a regular customer in a café in Tavira.

Being seen by one when sitting quietly in the Alhambra in Granada. Having a customer see my photo in a friend's restaurant in Spain. Rushing a pregnant customer to Maternity... (false alarm!) once... shutting the market doors quickly when there was a gunman on the loose outside! Or from the rampaging City/Rovers fans! Several flooding incidents...

It's been a life. Certainly I've been blessed in life with the range of people I've met, from Beatle days, the sixties pop world, Buddhist days in 70s, through African affairs (via my father) all my many trips to Spain (I love the place!) and all the various people concerned with the Peace movement (now run by Yoko) and also the various famous folk that are customers! But the not-so-famous are just as interesting!

The way they were.
Chris and Joy in 1984



who
ate

all
the
flaming
pies?

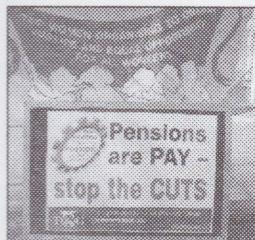
Royce Rolls at 25

Pensioned Off?

Employers Cause Widespread Disruption to Public Services and Education Across the South West

A national strike on the part of members representing eleven trade unions took part on 28th March following an attack on public-sector pensions arrangements. Estimates of numbers on strike vary but are believed to have topped one million making it one of the largest coordinated industrial disputes in the UK for decades. Spirits were high among an impressive two thousand that marched from Castle Park to College Green. A less impressive rally for public services took place in Bristol at the end of April with around 10% of this turnout. Union bosses pursued a low-key approach in April while fresh negotiations are ongoing, resulting in a lacklustre effort in achieving mass support. Must do better. This is a struggle to ensure that working people enjoy a decent standard of living in retirement and that the next generation of workers are not sold out in pension negotiations. Despite jubilant noises from union leaders about the success of March 28th it is feared that gains for current Local Government Pension Scheme members may be accepted while compromising the conditions of future members. At the same time, after the many years of affluence that capitalist politicians promised their policies would deliver, state pensions now look set to be delayed until 68! At the time of writing Unison is launching a judicial review to challenge the Government/Employers' insistence that the rule of 85 (under which employees can retire at 60) is discriminatory. Unison point out that 75% of LGPS members are women – averaging pensions of just £31 per week! (<http://www.unison.org.uk/pensions/index.asp>).

Meanwhile, at the time of going to print vice-chancellors have in effect gone on strike, by refusing to negotiate with academic staff represented by the AUT (Association of University Teachers) and NATFHE (National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education) on their pay claim, prompting the disruption of students' exam schedules. Pay in the higher-education sector has consistently fallen behind that of other professionals. NATFHE claim that in real terms, the academic profession has suffered a 40% reduction in wages over the past 20 years. Despite employers' attempts to blame lecturers for a ban on exam assessment, the lecturers retain the support of the National Union of Students in their dispute. Nationally the NUS recognise that adequate funding in higher education is in the broader, long-term interest of all students.



Throughout the Thatcher-Blair years of attacks on the public sector it is clear that individualism and sectional interests have brought about a massive deterioration in the morale of working people throughout Western Europe and beyond. We can only achieve the replacement of the present 'race to the bottom' with a society run in a way that is truly democratic, sustainable and that meets social justice by mass collective action. We must resist employers' and the bosses' media attempts to divide students against lecturers, public sector against private sector, locals against migrants and to play off the interests of workers from Britain, France, India, Chinese or any other country against each other in the name of competition and efficiency.



The number of flights going in and out of Bristol International Airport (BIA) is planned to double by 2015 and treble by 2030. On 18th May, an anti Airport expansion meeting was held in Bath. It was attended by around 40 people all coming together to oppose this expansion, and we really hope this number will grow. (There's

Air today

also a group already established in Bristol – see web address below.)

Everyone enjoys being able to take low cost flights abroad for holiday or business. However, this comes at a massive cost, not only to the local environment and community, but more importantly to the planet and humanity as a whole. The contribution of aviation to climate change is severe, and growing.

Thanks to our insatiable desire to fly we are causing irreparable environment damage. Every 6 hour plane journey is the equivalent – in terms of CO2 emissions – of all passengers driving their cars for an entire year. That's a lot of CO2! If we don't oppose developments such as this, all our efforts of recycling, cycling to work, eating local produce etc will be totally dwarfed by the massive impact increasing aviation will have on the environment.



The greenhouse gases emitted from aircraft engines into the atmosphere make a significant (and the fastest growing) contribution to climate change. [1] On the one hand the Government claim that they are committed to reducing CO2 emissions; yet on the other hand they are planning to increase air traffic all over Britain!

Given this flagrant government hypocrisy, we will have no chance of slowing climate change, unless individuals take charge through direct action.

On a local level the extra traffic going to the Airport will amount to

an Average of 300 extra cars an hour!! And there are no plans to improve public transport! I don't know if anyone has noticed but there is already an increase in noise pollution from the planes overhead – Bath is now in the direct flight path for the descent into Bristol Airport. This noise will increase massively if the expansion plans go ahead. The World Health Organisation recognises noise pollution from planes as a serious health issue.

gone tomorrow?

In monetary terms, £9 billion of UK tax payers money is going to subsidise aviation fuel.[2] At the same time, the Government has calculated that we should actually cost greenhouse emissions at £70-£100 per tonne[3] – this money could be much better spent!

We really need to stop this expansion if we have any hope of reducing climate change.

For info on further actions, and the Bristol group, see www.nobristolairportexpansion.co.uk and

www.bristolfoe.org.uk

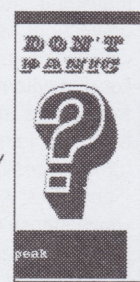


1. Department of Transport and Industry report, 1999

2. 'Airport expansion will damage local economy says economic expert', Friends of the Earth Bristol and Campaign to Protect Rural England, 2005

3. The Council to Protect Rural England report on the economic impact of Bristol International Airport. Written by Professor John Whitelegg. 2005.

Stroud Fairy



Leftism is Back!

Bath's Leftism is a monthly club night that raises funds for local 'political, humanitarian, environmental and other "worthwhile" causes'. Formerly held at the Porter Butt in London Road, Mike of Leftism switched operations to The Crown, Bathwick in May. See website for up and coming dates and causes:

<http://www.leftism.co.uk>

Bristling South West



Paul Howard/Christopher Lincoln

Save Churchill House

Up to 10,000 Bathonians have signed a petition to stop more parts of their urban environment degenerating into a clone town.

Under threat is Churchill House, the former Electricity Board office beside the River Avon in Dorchester Street. A people's campaign has been launched to save the distinctive neo-Classical building which dates from the early 20th Century.

<http://www.savechurchillhouse.co.uk/>

Fast Sprint to Success in Glastonbury

Campaigners and greyhounds alike are delighted at the closure of Abbey Moor greyhound stadium, near Glastonbury. Regular demonstrations by campaigners helped to draw attention to the abuse. Direct action against the premises is also thought to have jeopardised the track's future. Owner Peter Toogood announced his intention to close the track in March, after racing was re-introduced in Glastonbury in October 2005.

Animal welfarists have since been helping to find homes for many of the abandoned dogs. Every year the dog racing industry destroys hundreds of greyhounds as soon as they are considered unfit to win races. Local greyhound rescue groups from across the South West have now joined together to form the coalition 'SWAG' (South West Action for Greyhounds). A much larger greyhound track at Blunsdon near Swindon is still proving to be a menace to animal welfare so campaigning continues.

Ffi:
swagreyhounds@yahoo.co.uk

By gnome

Hysteria from the authorities as 395 prisoners abscond from **Leyhill Open Prison** in the last 7 years. Whilst an Open prison is for low risk prisoners, has nobody caught on yet that you'd be mad not to want to escape from any prison? They're not nice, as evidenced by ever increasing over-crowding and suicide figures. Meanwhile, **Avon & Somerset Police** announce that a staggering 21% of crimes are resolved in the Bristol area, up from a safe-cracking 14% last year. What do we pay these plods for? Council Tax refunds anyone?

An emotional thank you note on Bristol Indymedia from **Jerry Hicks**, the Respect Coalition's Longleaze candidate in the May. With 150 canvassers, 28,000 leaflets, and 679 votes Jerry claimed to have broken the mould in UK politics. Jerry came second, to the Lib Dems 1,091 votes. NeoLabour got 554, Greens 251. Respect to Jerry for his integrity & life of struggle, but breaking the mould? Or splitting the vote so the hated LibDems get back in? If you are into tactical voting go figure, if you don't trust any of the parties (we don't) do something else.

Local elections? Whatever became of the **Bristolian Party** and its commitment to localism & Bristol? Where's the party leader now? A short sharp lesson in a lack of strategy and meaningful policies, and of getting ahead of yourself. The disappearance of the Bristolian newsletter, of course, is a much greater loss – and a great relief to the powers that be.

Meanwhile, ex-Class War founder and Bristolian editor, **Ian Bone**, is scribbling part of his life story. Out this year, published by the Naked Guide firm. A riotous read no doubt, through the bottom of a pint glass, but not much on Bristol? Or did history repeat itself? Of all the anarchist visionaries, we wish Ian well and a healthier old age.

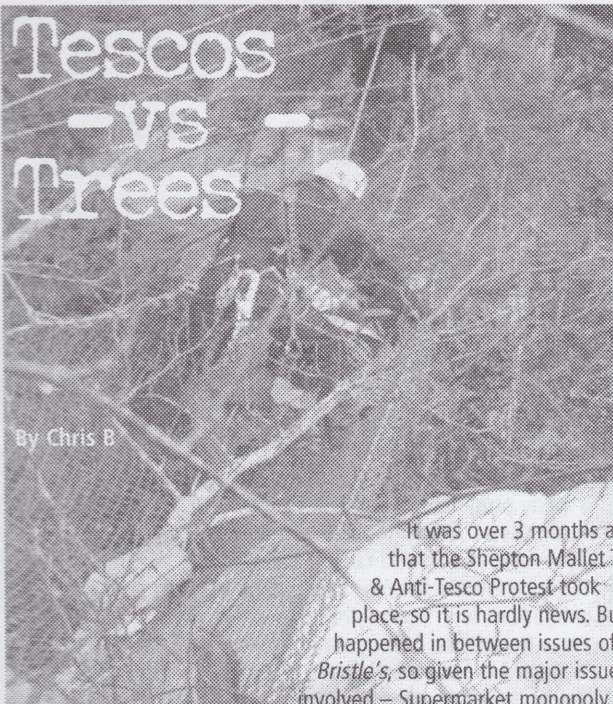
Traffic jams. **Broadmead redevelopment**. Pollution. More bloody shops. Concrete everywhere. Green Bristol? Or is it Orange? The corporate takeover of **Ashton Court**, the former free Bristol Community Festival continues apace, with VIP areas and tickets up to £9 this year. Consume less, live more, make your own festie!.

As the cops came hassling **Bristol Indymedia** again in May, so did the fascists. Confirmation that one follows the other. Support your local indymedia – read it, write it, be it, defend it.

No corporate luv-fest at Glasto this year, but the

much cheaper **Big Green Gathering**, from 2 August, offers better politics, vibes, and people. They need a full crowd this year to survive for next - www.big-green-gathering.com

Lastly, that capitalist onslaught known as regeneration marches on in East Bristol. A stench of corruption emanates from **Barton Hill**, as questions begin to be asked and the shredder works overtime. Too late though to save the daycare nursery at The Settlement, closed for lack of funds. Meanwhile in **Easton**, Packers Field, the Chocolate Factory, Easton Community Centre, even the allotments off the bike path – all may soon be lost to a mixture of developers, private finance & the god squad. Beware of LibDems muscling in on your community campaign, they cannot be trusted as the unfolding of events at ECC has shown. Its time to dust off those barricades comrades! See www.packersfield.org.uk and www.greenbankchocolatebox.org.uk



By Chris B

It was over 3 months ago that the Shepton Mallet Tree & Anti-Tesco Protest took place, so it is hardly news. But it happened in between issues of *Bristle's*, so given the major issues involved – Supermarket monopoly and

Eco-destruction and the fact it was a significant piece of direct action, it is still worthwhile looking again at what happened.

For those of you weren't aware from the 14th February to the 30th March there was a tree protest in Shepton Mallet, trying to stop the felling of a number of 200-year old cedars and one or two beech trees. It was also trying to mount some resistance to the seemingly unstoppable juggernaut that is Tesco. It would be fair to say that people had different views on which was the main emphasis of the protest.

The situation was very similar to that all over the country – supermarkets building supermarkets next to other supermarkets in very small towns – killing small traders and damaging the environment. This time someone was prepared to do more than sign a petition, or write a letter.

There were in fact two camps, the first one, evicted without too much trouble; the second had a couple of days of significant resistance. This included stopping work for one day (some digger diving) and a struggle up in the trees on the second eviction. If you're interested in detailed reports of all the action I suggest you look at the Bristol Indymedia archives and Schnews film (links below).

The protest's main value, in my view, was as a negative news story for Tesco. This happily coincided with the announcement of another (albeit probably toothless) inquiry into their monopolising and other unfair trading practices. Perhaps this is coloured by my only being involved after many of the older trees had already been felled, and not feeling as emotionally attached to the trees as many locals were. The protest itself received some bad press, as well as hostility from some locals. However, it was clear that many were in favour of our presence - the protest produced other positives, with many from Shepton actively involved with the camp.

The protest in Shepton Mallet was only one of over 50 campaigns against Tesco's nationally. In the south west alone there have been least seven active campaigns, including a successful campaign mounted in Stroud a number of years ago. More recently, for example in Nailsea, where a second Tesco has just gone the go ahead, objections on a wide range of social and environmental issues have had no affect on the ultimate planning decisions.

Of course, Tesco's dominance of the market place and disregard for ethics has affects worldwide. For instance, putting pressure on overseas garment producers for ever lower prices, which has ill effects on already low-paid workers' conditions.

The question is, what next? It is likely that local campaigns against specific stores will continue, but perhaps there needs to be some kind of consolidation of these campaigns. News and info is already being collected on the 'Tescopoly' website, which is a good start. But we will all have to dig in our nails in a bit more, as happened at Shepton.

More info: www.Tescopoly.org; <http://bristol.indymedia.org>; www.schnews.org.uk/movies; www.corporatewatch.org.uk

Bristling South West

Man Assaulted By Police Charged With Police Assault

By Chris B

John, a man from Shepton Mallet, who was involved with the anti-Tesco protest, was charged with assaulting the police on the day of the eviction. He, according to witnesses, was actually assaulted by two different policemen. Indeed, video evidence seen by *bristle* seems at odds with the police statements, including one officer who claims to have been a witness to the alleged assault clearly shown on the video quite literally looking the other way. John's Pre-trial review took place on June 8, and charges were hopefully dropped. If not it is likely that the case will go to crown court. Any witnesses to the incident, or messages of support for John can be forwarded to me via editors@bristle.org.uk.





The Bristle Interview

Stuart Christie

"Every generation begins the struggle for justice afresh – and the struggle is forever"

On 11th March Stuart Christie gave a talk based on his autobiography, *Granny Made me an Anarchist*, in the genteel surroundings of Bath Guildhall. While he was in the West Country, Bristle took the opportunity to look him up and fill in some of the gaps...



When we spotted your name in the glossy Bath Literature Festival guide we did a double-take. 'What, *the* Stuart Christie?' You once mentioned in *The Christie File* that 'I intensely dislike public speaking', yet there you were large as life. How have you spent the decades between the events described in *Granny Made me an Anarchist* and your appearance in Bath Guildhall?

I still do dislike public speaking. I think it's because I am by nature and temperament monosyllabic and I have a horror of turning into a demagogue on stage, like politicians on the Today programme. Problem is, people often ask you questions which you can't really answer, either because you don't know or because the answer could be seriously compromising and come back to haunt you in the dock at the Old Bailey. The reason why I've been on the speaking circuit recently has to do with the contractual obligations with my publisher. Also, what I'm talking about, mainly, the anti-Francoist Resistance, is illustrated and covers a clearly defined historical period as opposed to me rabbiting on about abstractions and general principles. With the exception of Noam Chomsky's talks – and perhaps one or two others – those sorts of talks and debates usually degenerate into ideological point scoring. I find them, mostly, very boring – and I'd hate to be boring.

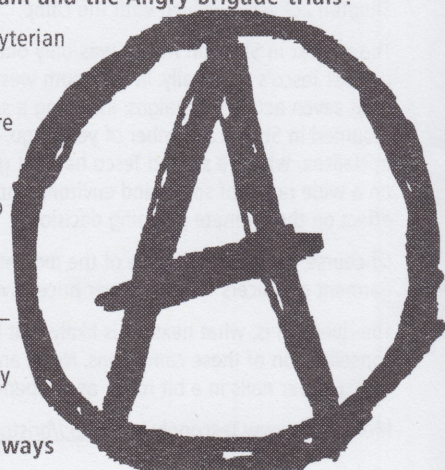
As for what happened in between now and the period after the conclusion of 'Granny'..., it's a long story and covers Cienfuegos Press; Refract Publications; the MIL, the GARI, the conclusion of the Suarez kidnapping case; the Persons Unknown case in Huddersfield, where I lived for a while after leaving London then moving to the island of Sanday in the Orkney Islands for seven years, then to Cambridge and a joint honours degree in History and Politics as a mature student (to get out from under the financial collapse of Cienfuegos Press). After that I became involved in magazine publishing.

Basically I'm just plodding along, on the sidelines, doing my own thing, such as my new anarchist fiction imprint "Read 'n' Noir" (with two titles so far "The man who killed Durruti" by Pedro de Paz and 'Without a glimmer of remorse' by Pino Cacucci). Apart from that my main focus at the moment is an Internet video/tv station – www.espanafreetv.com; www.hastingsfreetv.org and, shortly, www.italiafreetv.com. The station will show anarchist documentaries and feature films – and maybe develop into other areas as well. But in the meantime our main problems are content, copyright, expensive storage and broadband width costs. It ain't cheap and I'm still not sure how we can afford to keep it going. Realistically we need sponsorship, donations and perhaps advertising revenue. Anyway, that's us almost up to date. Oh, yes, I'm also writing a novel and I'm involved in the campaign to clear the names of Delgado and Granado, the two young anarchists whose execution in 1963 brought me into the Spanish anarchist resistance movement in the first place.

For me, your writing is more powerful than other more doctrinaire political prose. I think this is partly because of your appreciation of the support you received from your family, partner and comrades and the sense of humour that you manage to salvage from very unpromising circumstances. What do you think carried you through what appear to be impossibly stressful situations during your imprisonment in Spain and the Angry Brigade trials?

A sense of humour, probably, and maybe Presbyterian stoicism. The idea that you should turn every situation to your advantage, either that or go under. As for the writing style, I know that there is nothing more off-putting than self-righteous ideologically driven proselytising, be it on the page, screen or public platform. People need to relate to you on the page as a human being, with all of humanity's foibles, failings and uncertainties (as well as those describing those moments when you do something unexpected – taking the road less travelled as it were. But humour – be it slapstick, ironic or gallows, is by far the best page-turner, for me at any rate.

Bristle is a regional magazine so we are always



interested in the local connection. You mention in *The Christie File* that you attended a conference for the founding of the Anarchist Federation in Bristol in 1963. Do you have memories of West Country radicalism at the time?

It was held in Bristol because it was organised by some comrades from around the area. There was an active group here at the time, as there were in many places in the early 60s. Remember, the degree of radicalisation was high because of the 1959 Cuban revolution, the explosion of libertarian ideas as disillusionment in parliamentary and traditional leftist politics of the Labour Party and the Communist grew, the collapse of deference – and the perceived urgency of the need to get rid of nuclear weapons. Possibly the Cuban Missile Crisis was the main trigger. People really believed they had less than a week to live at the time – and it was all down to states and government, over which they had absolutely no control. Hence the growth in the ideas of extra-parliamentary politics, direct action and self-management – short-circuiting and bypassing the traditional power networks.

One thing that I hadn't appreciated before reading your books was the collaboration of the UK, US and French authorities with Fascist Spain. We understand that the clampdown on the Jihadist threat following Sept 11th and the Madrid bombings has been used as an opportunity for repressive measures to be extended to all dissident, including anarchist, groups. This has long been the situation in the Basque country of course. Do you still take an active interest in the situation in Spain?

Yes, as I said I am involved in the Delgado and Granado campaign and am in regular contact with comrades in Spain, France, Italy and elsewhere, the ones involved in the anti-Francoist resistance – as well as younger, newer comrades. Apart from the Delgado and Granado campaign, although really it is still part of it, I am involved in the Campaign for the Recovery of Historical Memory – which seeks justice for the untold hundreds of thousands of the victims of Francoism; or at least recognition of the crimes of Francoism, which remain unaddressed.

Anarchist printed magazines such as *Black Flag* and *Freedom* now have mixed fortunes due to the political shifts in society at large and the rise of the Internet. Do you think there is still a role for such media?

Obviously the new media is the internet, particularly video-streaming and internet tv stations, but the importance of the printed word remains as strong as ever. Nothing like reading hard copy on a printed page. I am involved with a local magazine called *The Hastings Trawler*, but it is not an anarchist magazine as such. Let's say it's an independent forum for local issues with a distinctly libertarian bent. People don't like being preached to so I prefer to avoid pigeonholing publications and let people make their own mind up based on content rather than prejudice or ideological bent.

Many anarchists were disappointed that (according to an interview with Duncan Campbell in *The Guardian*) you voted for Respect during the campaign against the Iraq War. What made you vote and why support the party of George Galloway, now famously the puss that got the cream, in particular?

Some anarchists believe that every time an anarchist votes a little fairy somewhere drops down dead. Well, don't believe it. I did vote for the Respect candidate, but it was neither for the party or for George Galloway, it was a protest vote against the Labour Party and the war. Basically, I was (and still am) so angry about the war and that particular day – voting day – provided an opportunity of registering my opposition to the war. It didn't mean I was throwing in my lot with Respect, far from it, my views on parliamentary politics remains the same as it has always been.

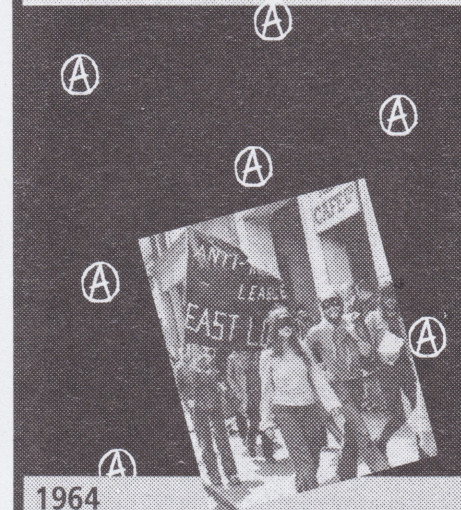
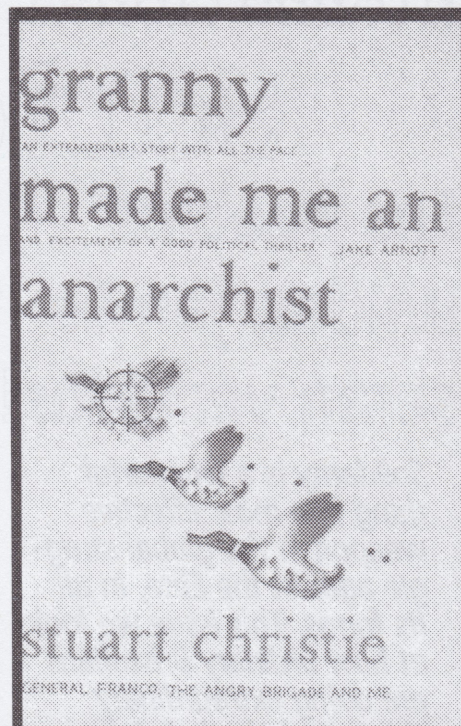
Finally, do you have any comments to make on the present anarchist movement, or even advice for, the younger generation of anarchists and idealists?

Just keep pushing back the boundaries. You'll hopefully make a better job of it than we did!

What, (if anything!) gives you hope for the future?

Every generation begins the struggle for justice afresh – and the struggle is forever.

"I did vote for the Respect candidate, but it was neither for the party or for George Galloway, it was a protest vote against the Labour Party and the war"



1964

Moved by accounts of the oppression, execution and torture of workers in Fascist Spain, Stuart Christie felt compelled to help his comrades in Glasgow's Spanish exile community. Notoriously the eighteen-year old duly hitched to Spain and took part in an abortive assassination attempt upon Franco. He suffered imprisonment, missing a horrifying death by garroting partly due to his status as a foreign national.

1972

A high-profile campaign in Britain against state and capital by the Angry Brigade. Christie was charged in the ensuing trails. While he was acquitted of involvement, his co-defendants were found guilty. As author of books such as *The Christie File* and *Floodgates of Anarchy* (with Albert Meltzer) and an editor of *Black Flag* he remained a prominent exponent of anarchism. Thereafter Stuart Christie's name disappeared from the headlines of the mainstream press.

Publications

The Christie File; Floodgates of Anarchy; Black Flag

International

Solidarity Special

Los pueblos
unidos, jamás
serán vencidos!

Solidarity is a wonderful thing, the most effective weapon in the global struggle against the Elite, in all its forms. This issue we look at how ordinary Bristolians are doing extraordinary things to help their fellow human beings, and offer them an opportunity to talk to you directly about their experiences.

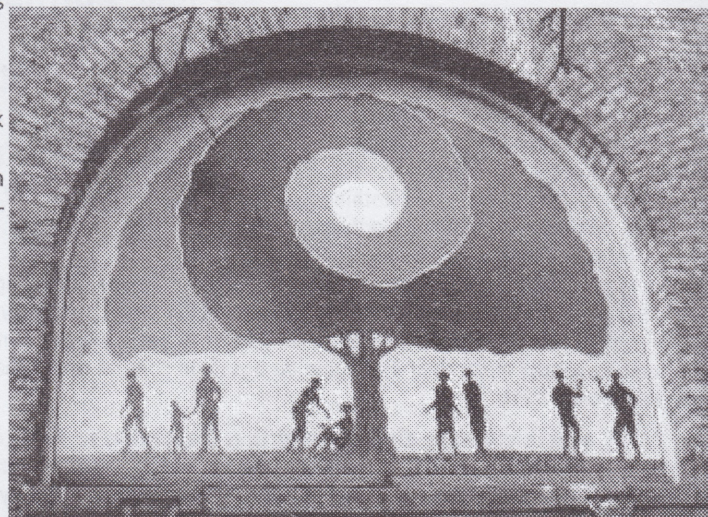
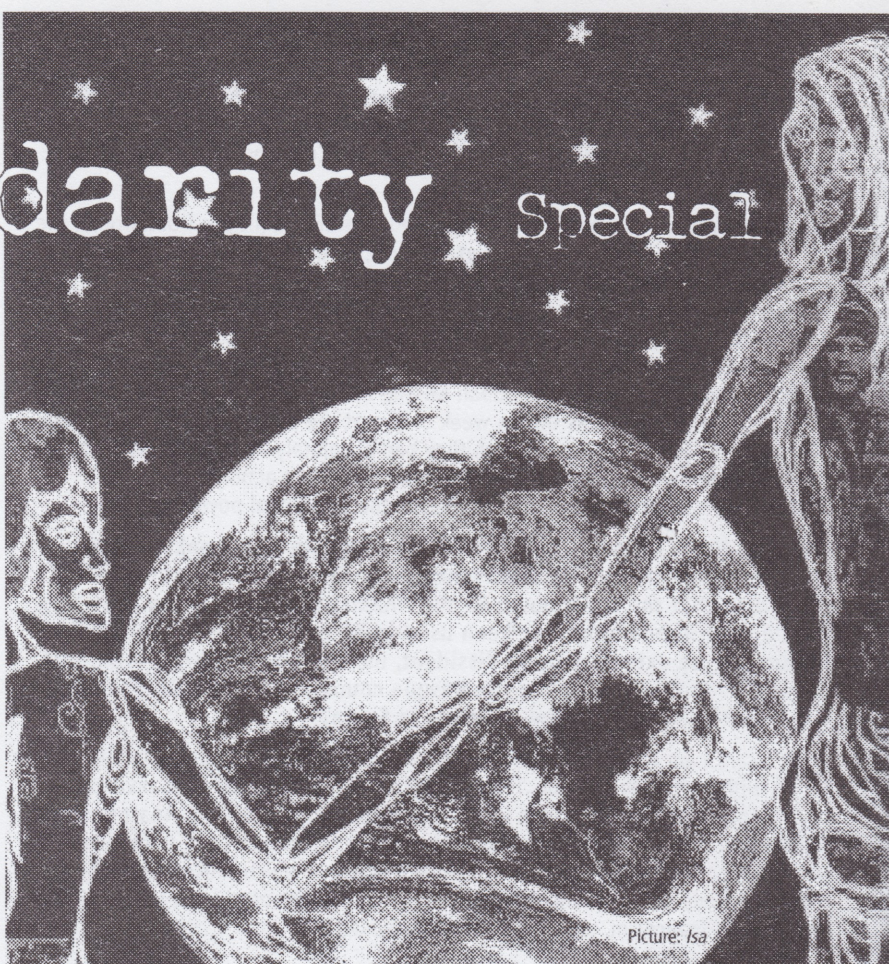
International Solidarity has many faces, but the common thread that runs through all of these articles is the willingness of those involved to take positive action. There's no room here for self-congratulating conscience salving, as practiced by 'Vichy Bob' Geldof and his merry white-band!

To quote the Kiptik article, "A successful solidarity group should experience far more than a feel-good factor." BLINC have developed strong links with the people of Puerto Morazan by visiting them and asking them what they need, then making every effort to provide it. Bristol PSC members travel to Tulkarm to offer their skills, and then continue the fight at home. The Easton Cowgirls and Cowboys went to Chiapas because they

were invited, not as saviours but as fellow trabajadores. Euskalinfo provides local information on the Basque struggle because if it didn't, then we would never hear the truth

All of these groups not only provide practical help to those they support, they also talk to them, as individuals rather than as 'victims' or 'revolutionaries'. The support is not uncritical or dogmatic - tongues are not held if injustice is witnessed. Support

defending asylum seekers from state harassment, halting the destruction of the environment, or the day-to-day fight against fascism, sexism and racism - a quick check on



bristle 22

Who I am is irrelevant.
My life story, my job, does not matter
What counts is what I do.
For those less fortunate than I.
Not for money nor glory.
But to further their struggle.
To highlight their cause.
To destroy their dictators.
To destroy mine.
To change all our worlds.
What counts is what I do.
Who I am is irrelevant.

By: An Internationalist (anon)

for individuals or communities may not be the same as support for leadership or ideology, and this first hand knowledge is vital for keeping the wider community in Bristol informed.

Solidarity isn't just about helping those in the direst need, however, it's also about strengthening ourselves in Bristol and the West. The individuals belonging to these international solidarity campaigns are usually also involved in local solidarity at the same time. Whether its campaigning for local services,

Bristol Indymedia will show there's plenty of work to be done on the home front as well!

Bristle offers total respect and solidarity to all of these campaigns. We have included contact details for each group and urge you to find out more about them, either to gain knowledge that cant be found in books or articles, or to join them in their struggle for justice and a better world.

KIPTIK

and co-optation. Working alongside the Zapatistas actually makes this process of self-critique much easier, as they pull no punches as to what they expect of groups who offer their support. This was demonstrated in the mid-1990s by the exclusion of numerous NGOs who were felt to be operating with old-fashioned ideas of aid and development.



KIPTIK's work is defined by needs identified in the communities themselves, and projects are drawn up in direct consultation with the Juntas de Buen Gobierno (good government assemblies), democratic and representative bodies typical of the Zapatista way of decision-making. The result is at its best a mutually beneficial relationship, with both parties gaining new practical and theoretical skills. For some this might mean learning to build and repair a water system, for others alternative ways of 'doing' politics. KIPTIK strives for a constructive and mutually respectful



KIPTIK are a UK-based solidarity group, who have been working on projects in the autonomous communities of Chiapas, South-East Mexico, since May 2000. KIPTIK was formed following a football tour of Chiapas by the Bristol-based Easton Cowboys football team. The main part of KIPTIK's organisational activity remains in Bristol, but there are also active members based elsewhere in the UK, as well as strong links with other international solidarity groups.

KIPTIK's support of the Zapatista struggle has a number of facets. This is primarily the construction of drinking water systems, but also ecological stoves, solar panel systems and mural projects. This is achieved by providing varying degrees of financial, technical and practical assistance. With regards to water, this involves design, buying materials and training communities to maintain and build systems themselves. Kiptik has helped fund and build 17 water systems in the autonomous communities of Chiapas since 2000. This has brought a clean water supply to around 500 families. The practical value of this work is enormous, taking away the burden of carrying water by hand for miles each day. It is also instrumental in reducing high mortality rates, due to water-related illness such as cholera and dysentery. Furthermore, it allows the communities control over their own resources, giving them autonomy from government-sponsored projects which are used to divide communities.

To make these projects possible, KIPTIK is involved in ongoing fundraising activities, for example, selling merchandise sourced within the Zapatista communities. We have also been involved in the promotion of fair-trade Zapatista coffee by Bristol's Essential Trading Co-operative. KIPTIK members raise money through sponsored activities, and we also receive donations from individuals and groups who support our work. It is important to emphasise that no KIPTIK members are paid. All support work is voluntary, and those who go to Chiapas to work are entirely self-funded.

As well as fundraising for projects, KIPTIK is involved in promoting the history and ideas

of the Zapatista struggle, through public talks, workshops and film nights. These are an important means of keeping the struggle alive in the eyes of the world, long after the mainstream media have found newer, trendier causes to patronise. In December 2005 a number of KIPTIK members visited five towns and cities in Holland, giving talks and sharing experiences. This was intended not only to promote our own work and the Zapatista struggle in general, but also to support the growth of similar solidarity groups in Holland. International solidarity is not simply a two-way process between Chiapas and the UK, but also between groups within Europe, the USA and so on. This is demonstrated by the regular 'intergalactic' meetings involving groups from the UK, Italy, Catalunya and elsewhere.

The last word goes to the Zapatistas themselves who recently made the following statement:
'Since 1994, international solidarity has helped a lot to put autonomy into practice. Without you we'd be less. Solidarity has allowed the growth of projects which have been born here. Not like the NGOs, who, in 94/95/96, brought projects which were often badly adapted, solidarity groups have supported projects which have been designed by the communities or discussed in the communities. The objective of international solidarity is: that each person brings according to his/her means a solidarity which is built together with the person who receives it, on the basis of the different local realities.'

Teniente Coronel Moises
(Comision Sexta): Feb. 2006

A successful solidarity group should experience far more than a 'feel-good factor'. We think that hands-on solidarity work is a way of joining struggles and cultures worldwide to find genuine common ground and shared solutions to the problems we are all facing. Furthermore, it is important that those involved in solidarity groups are constantly evaluating and questioning their aims and actions, in order to recognise the fine lines between solidarity and charity, co-operation

relationship with the Zapatistas, and has been required to challenge, and be challenged, in order to maintain this. A case in point occurred in the recent comunicués from the Zapatistas' 'Other Campaign'. These raised some provocative questions about the nature of international solidarity groups, which both sides then discussed in an ongoing dialogue. Images & Article by Kiptik

WWW.KIPTIK.BUZ.ORG

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

BRISTOL GROUP

The Bristol Group of Amnesty International (AI) is an active and vibrant set of people, with 35 committed core members and a wider membership of around 300. Our membership is fully inclusive and we do not turn anyone away! The activities of the group take place at different times, locations and levels, so there's something for everyone.

Regular Activities & Events

The best introduction to the Bristol Group is the monthly meeting. We meet from 7.45pm on the third Monday of every month, usually at the Narrow Quay YHA. Each meeting focuses on one of our campaigns and will usually include a presentation, an update on campaign activities and the opportunity to take action. These meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend and there is no obligation to join either AI or the Bristol Group.

Each month (as well as the main meeting) there are usually at least two social letter-writing sessions - at members' houses, local pubs, and cafes. We attend events and organize fundraisers to raise awareness, publicise Amnesty, and generate donations.

We also hold a very successful annual Garden Party at the Orangery in Goldney Hall in Clifton. It's a great family day out in support of Amnesty International. This year it's on Sunday 6th Aug 2006, from 2.00- 5.30pm.



How We Operate

We support and report directly to Amnesty International, UK Section (AIUK), and regularly send them donations from our fundraising activities.

The Group has a Managing Committee of five people who steer the ideas and energy generated by the Group and ensure that things run smoothly. The Group also appoints campaign co-ordinators for from its membership, and many Group members have set up their own activities with support from the

Group. Regular updates of latest actions are posted on our Group email list or through our newsletter.

Our Campaigns

We presently actively support the following Amnesty campaigns:

The Stop Violence Against Women campaign aims to raise awareness. It works within the UK highlighting domestic violence against women through media advertising (posters, television and cinema adverts) and letter-writing. It also lobbies local politicians and central government.

Rape and sexual assault are regularly used in war situations as a weapon. The world-wide Stop Violence Against Women campaign encourages men and women to think about how life would be different if there were no problems with violence against women and girls.

Democratic Republic of Congo. A new campaign which focuses upon the human rights implications stemming from the political chaos in the DRC.

The Control Arms campaign argues that it is unrealistic to attempt to prevent the manufacture and supply of arms. It concentrates on the relatively unregulated availability of small arms. The campaign objective is to encourage international action to regulate the arms market. The Bristol Group has been commended for its activities in relation to the 'Million Faces' campaign, a petition which aims for support in the form of one million signatures.

Against the Death Penalty. We are campaigning on behalf of individuals under the Death Sentence and towards the end of capital punishment worldwide.

Children's Campaign. Children across the globe have their rights violated on an epic scale. In the last decade millions of children have been killed, maimed and wounded in wars and armed conflicts. Our campaign aims to take action on their behalf by writing letters and publicising their plight.



Books for Amnesty

Our secondhand bookshop at 103 Gloucester Road, Bishopston continues to go from strength to strength. Selling books, music and Amnesty goods, the shop has been running for nearly a decade. Please keep the donations coming - and keep buying!

Recent Group Successes

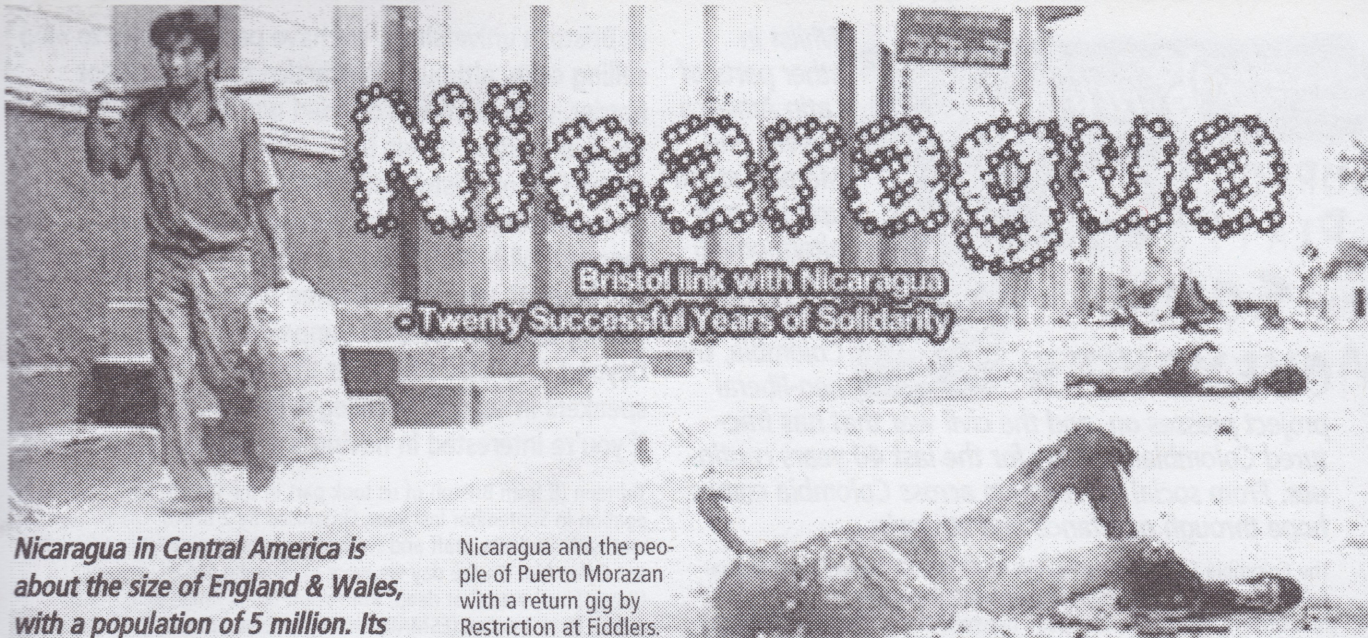
The Group recently participated in a mini film Gala with the Watershed which saw 'The Road to Guantanamo' screened in the presence of one of its directors (Mat Whitecross) and the 'Tipton Three' who were imprisoned and held at Guantanamo by the American forces. This thought-provoking event provided a forum for discussion on this difficult issue.

For more info:

Secretary; Peggy Salisbury, 0117 973 4629
Brisarum2@btinternet.com.

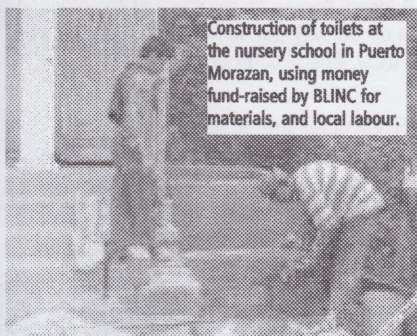
Press Officer; Sally Heaven, 07742 930169
sally.heaven.01@bbc.co.uk.

Amnesty Bookshop; 0117 942 2969,
10.00am until 4.00pm (Monday to Friday),
and 11.00am until 5.00pm (Saturdays)



Nicaragua in Central America is about the size of England & Wales, with a population of 5 million. Its history has been characterised by natural disaster (earthquakes, hurricanes), dictatorship, war & intervention by the United States.

The 1980s in Nicaragua saw the FSLN government, also known as the Sandinistas, introduce wide-ranging reforms in health, education and land reform designed to benefit the majority. Sadly the 'Contra' war, organised and financed by the US, severely crippled the economy and led to tens of thousands of casualties. In 1990 the Sandinistas lost the election to a US-backed coalition.



Construction of toilets at the nursery school in Puerto Morazan, using money fund-raised by BLINC for materials, and local labour.

In recent years Nicaragua has experienced erosion of the improvements that the Sandinistas introduced. Under successive governments the population has experienced increasing hardship. 45% of the population now live on less than \$1 a day (UNDP 2005). Access to education & health care is limited.

Puerto Morazan - Our local link with Nicaragua

People from Bristol have links with Puerto Morazan municipality in north-west Nicaragua going back to 1972 (when a massive earthquake devastated the capital, Managua). Since then the links between our two communities have deepened and many people from Bristol have visited the area, including teachers, students and community workers. Puerto Morazan is Bristol's twin town (signed in 1989) where 15,000 of the poorest people on earth live.

Bristol Link with Nicaragua (BLINC) was launched publicly in November 1985 at a gig with local reggae outfit Restriction and Miliantu, a Chilean band from Manchester. The evening attracted over 400 people and made BLINC 17p profit! In November 2005 we celebrated 20 years of solidarity with

Nicaragua and the people of Puerto Morazan with a return gig by Restriction at Fiddlers.

What does solidarity with Nicaragua mean?

BLINC supports the Nicaraguan people in their struggle to improve their lives. Our link is immeasurably valuable to both Nicaraguans and Bristolians. The friendships, intercultural understanding and exchange enrich many lives.

Education and twinning between schools have been among the strongest links between our communities. BLINC with support from SfE (Stands for Education) / Tribal has pumped over £20,000 into the two secondary schools in the area, one of which is officially the worst in the Chinandega region. We fund the salary of an IT teacher, two educational psychologists and a special needs teacher who also works with parents and teachers.

BLINC supports school links with Puerto Morazan (Ashton Gate and St Peter and St Paul primaries and Cotham secondary). Nicaraguans regularly visit the schools here and discuss their culture, development and economy. Children enjoy activities like mural painting and making gigantic puppets ('gigantonas'); they learn volcano, hurricane and tropical ecology. The Bristol Montessori Nursery has trained several teachers and contributed many resources.

Puerto Morazan girls performing in traditional costumes donated by the Montessori. They are at the Escuela Maria del Pilar Mendoza.



Through BLINC's registered charity 'Friends of Morazan' we fund three nursery school teachers' salaries. The needs are great and requests come for things as basic as drinking water, tables and chairs, books and extra pay for teachers whose wages are minimal. A BLINC sub-group meets four times a year to assess projects and make grants.

In July 2006 two teachers from Bristol Montessori School will travel to Puerto Morazan with teaching resources bought with funds raised by the generous parent group. Also this summer, teachers from Ashton Gate primary will visit, with funding from the British Council.

Support for women

BLINC has supported the Lucrecia Lindo women's fishing co-op since helping to set it up in 1986. Sixteen single mothers are now self sufficient; confident women raising their children and creating a better life. It took them four years to convince their male colleagues that they could succeed but with our help they did. Now they are recognised as the foremost women's fishing co-op in Nicaragua.

BLINC supports wider women's development in Nicaragua. We ran a two-year campaign on domestic violence including talks, video screenings, sending a volunteer to work with the Nicaraguan women's network against domestic violence, and raising £800 for a women's organisation to run anti-violence projects for sweat-shop workers.

Fundraising & networks

BLINC is supported through fund-raising events and by generous donations from local people and organisations. Our annual Copa Sandino football for Nicaragua event raises money for projects such as health education training, destruction of mosquito breeding grounds, training in domestic-violence issues for children and alcohol abuse education. BLINC is part of the wider Central America solidarity movement and in 2005 we helped host the UK's national conference on Central America at Cotham School. BLINC is part of the Bristol International Twinning Association and a member of the UK One World Linking Association; Nicaragua



The Bridge in Puerto Morazan - It is often impassable

Solidarity Campaign; Bristol and District North-South Forum; Central America Women's Network and the Bristol Central America Week committee.

BLINC Photos: Gioconda Arostegui Perez / BLINC

Get involved.....

BLINC is run by a small committee and is supported by a wide range of local people. We welcome new members and new ideas to help strengthen our links with Puerto Morazan. BLINC can help Spanish-speaking volunteers to work in Puerto Morazan with contacts and advice. If you would like more information or to get involved, contact us at: 43 Pricewood Road, Ashton, Bristol BS1 2AD info@blinc.org.uk www.blinc.org.uk

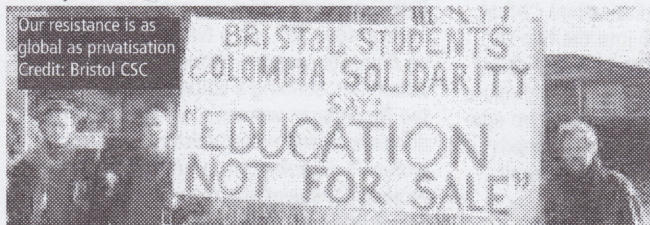
SUPPORT A PLATFORM FOR SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

project presses on, and the civil war that has fractured Colombian society for the last 40 years continues. From social movements across Colombia comes hope through resistance and struggle.

The Colombia Solidarity Campaign (CSC) is a UK-based international solidarity network, providing support and a platform for these social movements, linked to a European network of groups with similar politics (the Red Europa). Whilst much work goes on in London, in Bristol we maintain our decision-making processes as an autonomous group.

Meetings

We meet weekly with alternating 'planning' and 'reading group' meetings. The discussions that follow the article or film in the reading groups are interesting, helping demystify the complex social, political and economic webs that characterise Colombia. The balance between theory and action is something we have found really effective to maintain interest, sustain further the campaign, enhance our own understanding, share knowledge and experience and, of course, get to know each other better! We meet Wednesday evenings, usually at 7.30pm, and usually at one of our houses. Email us to find out where.



Campaigns

Over the years, the campaign has developed and strengthened links with individuals, groups and networks in Colombia, by us working over there, and hosting and organising tours over here. One such group the campaign has developed strong links with is the food and drinks workers union SINALTRAINAL, which represents the majority of Coca-Cola and Nestlé workers.

Since SINALTRAINAL launched the international boycott of Coca-Cola in 2003, CSC has supported and spring-boarded the Coke campaign in the UK, spawning the 'UK Students Against Coke' network campaigning to kick Coke off student campuses.

In 2004, Edgar Paez visited Bristol to tell us about the Coke campaign, and in November last year we co-ordinated Euripedes Yance's nationwide tour. And remember the blockade outside Coke's Longwell Green depot in March last year (see bristle19)?

Whilst in other parts of Latin America Chavéz and Morales stand up for a real altermondialisme (other world), in Colombia, the neo-liberal

In Bristol's universities, we have passed policy to stop selling coke, although in practice things are a lot harder, with contracts decided nationally and the status quo holding things back. Recently some students at the City of Bristol College have indicated interest, so a campaign should be erupting in the coming months! With NUS failing to support a national campus boycott, we must do some real work to facilitate setting up more campus campaigns in Bristol and beyond. The challenge over the next year is to get speakers in schools & colleges in the area. Contact us if you're interested in having a speaker in your school.

Thirteen (8 from Bristol) of us took part in the Universidad Viva! delegation in September last year. Organised by 2 Bristol campaigners, met with students, staff and workers at public universities throughout Colombia. On the day we were in Univalle in Cali, a student (Jhony Silva) was shot dead, from point-blank range with live ammunition, by riot police (ESMAD) inside university property, after a pretty minor protest was busted up at dusk.

Action

Avoiding activist tourism is crucial, and the follow-up work has been equally, if not more, important. On return to Bristol, our newly formed student group paraded a coffin through the Students' Union during the freshers fayre and presented it on the steps, to remember Jhony Silva. Then in February we demonstrated for a week in Bristol Uni, under a banner of "Education Not For Sale", tying together an issue that spans the Atlantic. The delegation made me realise just how much we can get away with here in the UK, if we realised our fears as just that.

2 years ago, officials from the Colombian Embassy were sent back to London reeling, after we rinsed them proper in a debate. 6 months later they sent their master of PR, Vice-President Santos, to talk at us about human rights progress (oh yeah?) under President Uribe. Santos had to step over 8 'dead' bodies on the steps of the building to get in (our die-in). Then on his way out Santos was doused in red paint (nothing to do with us...). Bristol is on Uribe's map.

Fun

Alongside the serious stuff, we make sure to get down to some cumbia and salsa pretty regularly at our benefit nights! Plus there's the Copa Sandino, a 5-a-side football tournament organised by Bristol Link with Nicaragua (BLINC), which has been getting us up Sundays for training for the last few weeks, shaking up our war-weary bones.

Oliver Edwards, Bristol, Colombia Solidarity Campaign.

All Photos - Bristol, Colombia Solidarity Campaign

Coca Cola Gun Image - CGT

www.colombiasolidarity.org.uk
bristol@colombiasolidarity.org.uk

Highlighting the murder of Colombian students at Bristol Uni freshers fayre.

Credit: Bristol CSC

Palestinians want people to see what they're going through

'Palestine is still the Issue'

- John Pilger

Palestine - International Solidarity Special

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The occupation of Palestine is at the heart of current tensions in & around the Middle East. The creation of the State of Israel in 1948 and its subsequent occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem in 1967 have arguably led to the September 11th 2001 attacks, the invasion of Iraq & the current 'War on Terror'. The UK in particular has played its part throughout by abandoning Palestine & supporting Israel & the U.S.

In early 2006, the Palestinians democratically elected Hamas as the Palestinian Authority's (PA) main party. Israel, the U.S. and the E.U. have seized on Hamas's supposed terrorist leanings as a pretext to cut all aid to the PA which has no state infrastructure, greatly worsening an already tense situation. Living conditions continue to deteriorate as Israel pushes on with its programme of ethnic cleansing and apartheid.

PSC believes that only pressure on Israel, to comply with the UN resolutions which allowed the formation of the Israeli state, will bring about peace and justice for Palestinians and Israelis - and by extension everyone else. These mainly concern withdrawal from the occupied territories and the right of return for Palestinian refugees.



Tesco's aisles were blocked by a big jaffa

Bristol PSC has around 80 members of which about 12 are very active. We meet monthly to discuss the campaign and bring ourselves up-to-date with developments in Palestine. During the last 2 years we have raised £5000+, which has been either sent to the charity Medical Aid for Palestinians or given directly to needy institutions in Palestine such as orphanages.

Bristol PSC's Main Activities

Monthly stalls: around Bristol and a presence at various community events. This mostly involves leafleting, talking to people and publicising events. It is occasionally enlivened by visits from Zionist activists. **Boycott Israeli Goods Campaign:** Part of the national campaign - letter writing to local and national stores, demonstrations and street theatre. So far we have persuaded 2 Bristol favourites - Harvest Wholefoods and Bristol Sweet Mart to stop selling Israeli goods. Somerfields also say they will stop selling them if consumer pressure is brought to bear - so get writing!



Cops block pavement & help PSC boycott of M&S

Educational events: talks, videos, discussions, speakers including MP's and activists from other groups and reports from those who have visited Palestine. Two Bristol MPs - Kerry McCarthy and Roger Berry are both active supporters of Palestine and Bristol PSC is in dialogue with them.

Regular lobbies: of Bristol MPs in Parliament to get them to sign Early Day Motions and make them aware of issues.

A presence: at national events such as the London demonstration on 20 May, 2006 Annual fund-raising sponsored walk: 2005's was a 12-mile walk which mirrored a similar journey in the West Bank i.e. we walked from College Green to Castle Green via Ashton Court, Dundry and Maes Knoll - something most Palestinians would relate to because of regular road closures!

Benefit Nights: when we get in bands, belly-dancers, beer and grub; have a good 'do' and raise some funds for Palestinians. All welcome - watch out for publicity.

Solidarity visits to the West Bank: Many of the Bristol group go there to bear witness, take part in non-violent direct action and help with the olive harvest. NB: If you feel you want to go, this is not so-called 'victim tourism' - Palestinians want people to see what they're going through and anyone who's willing to work is very welcome. Bristol PSC has particularly close links with the town of Tulkar. *Mirian & Alan, Bristol PSC*

What we need...

More activists for non-violent, creative, visible action in Bristol.
We need to greatly increase public awareness of the issues, get more members, mobilise people to support the campaign. New members, especially those bearing ideas for effective action are very welcome!

How to get involved

Monthly meetings - last Thursday of the month at St Werburgh's Community Centre, 7.30 pm.
For Info Phone 0117 941 3135 or e-mail witenagemot2@tiscali.co.uk
Join our email group at: http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/bristol_psc
National PSC are at: www.palestinecampaign.org

If you join this, you are automatically a member of Bristol PSC. You'll receive regular mailings, updates etc. and can go to the AGM and fun things like that.

bristle 22

When anyone chooses to take a stand against the rich, the powerful or the unjust, they soon come face-to-face with a system of laws and control designed to keep the rich wealthy, the powerful strong and the unjust unchallenged. This is not a legal system, it is a control system as Michael Collins, former Mayday 2000 prisoner, wrote: "Prison is a weapon used by the State to crush individuals who step out of line." Given that reality, what can we do?

The short answer is to provide solidarity. A prisoner is isolated from his or her community and hidden away by the state. We need to show both the prisoner that we are there and the state that we know they are there. Political prisoners often suffer far worse conditions of dehumanisation and repression than normal prisoners. This can range from petty obstruction (for example Animal Liberation Front prisoner Peter Young estimates that 50% of his mail is not being delivered to him), to the cruel (Black Panther prisoner Albert Woodfox had his request to attend his sister's funeral arbitrarily denied by prison officials in August 2002).

Lockdown Solidarity

Feb. 8, 2001: Black Panther prisoner Robert King Wilkerson walks free thanks to the solidarity of his supporters, following 29 years in solitary confinement for a murder he did not commit. Soon after this he gave a talk in Bristol at Easton Community Centre about his ordeal.

Photo: www.prisonactivist.org/angola



Your support is needed

What comrades inside prisons need is outside support. Prisoners need us to send them books, magazines and music. They and their support campaigns need money and publicity, and most of all they need to know about our support. As the state hides letters, we must send more. If the state disrupts visits to prisoners, we must visit more. Check with individual campaigns, especially international ones and those relating to refugees, to see what people may be asking for, and any conditions imposed on items - for example if you send a prisoner a book in some US prisons and its not from the publisher, they will send it back to you and bill the prisoner for the return postage! Writing to a prisoner can be a little intimidating, but put in some effort and a little time and that message will quite literally be the highlight of a prisoner's day.

For further information on writing to political prisoners come to the Kebele Kafe every Sunday

News from Euskal Herria

Euskalinfo was created to meet the need to provide information about the Basque conflict - and to challenge and redress bias in the mainstream media. The issue is either ignored or is very biased. The information in The Guardian, for example, came from a cor-

most active is the Free Inigo Makazaga Campaign. He was held in Belmarsh Prison for four and a half years without trial and then extradited (let me update you when he is tried!). Like any other



Riot police arrests demonstrators

Photo: Thomas Sjørup www.sjoerup.com

respondent in Madrid! The Guardian also works together with one of the Spanish right-wing papers, El Mundo. The Internet and the new possibilities provided by computers to spread information was our focus. However, we also organised demonstrations outside the Spanish embassy and joined others organised by other groups in London. The

collective, people went and other people joined in, but we always maintained the minimum numbers to be considered a group. For more than five years we have been providing updated information on the conflict, becoming one of the few available

points of reference on the Internet. We were aware of the importance of this, especially in a period like the one after the 9-11 when the Basque left was criminalised under the War on Terror. President Aznar paid his price for this when he blamed ETA again for something ETA had not done - Madrid M-11. However repression

(Basque Country)



Heavy rubber bullet guns are used by riot police against demonstrators

Photo: Thomas Sjørup www.sjoerup.com

under has continued under PSOE [the governing Spanish Socialist Party]. The latest ETA ceasefire has not changed the situation in that sense: a trial against 63 Basque activists which started last October still continues - the infamous 18-98 Summary [Judge



International Solidarity Basque Photo: Euskalinfo

Baltasar Garzon's high-profile political prosecution of individuals involved with Basque newspapers, cultural organisations and others]. Spain has become a fascist state especially in the Basque Country. We continue to work unveiling the full scale of this huge fascist operation against the Basque Left. Otherwise, we have kept positive, doing what we thought we ought to do. After the closure of most Basque dissident magazines (one of

our members wrote for one of them too), newspapers, radios, webpages and other media and all the anti-terrorist lists issued in EU, USA, UK and other states, we also thought we would experience some repression. The only incident affecting our campaign was the closure of our page when the Bristol Indymedia server was seized (Euskalinfo used the same

server).

The conflict in the Basque Country is far from over despite what people think - ETA was not the only source violence!

Euskalinfo

For ongoing news visit the website' info on the Basque conflict' in English:

www.euskalinfo.org.uk



Basque autonomical police are trying to stop anti ETA demonstrators from Clashing with Pro ETA demonstrators

Photo : Thomas Sjøerup

www.sjoerup.com

From Easton...to Chiapas

In April 2006 the Easton Cowgirls and Cowboys Basketball team embarked on a trip to Mexico to show solidarity with women in the Zapatista movement. During the trip we played basketball tournaments in 4 different communities and also took part in mural & water projects in the highlands of Chiapas

Our knowledge of the tense relationship that exists between the autonomous Zapatista communities and the Mexican Government was consolidated by our experience in Chiapas. We encountered military roadblocks on the way to villages and heard accounts of people working with the EZLN being targeted by the government.

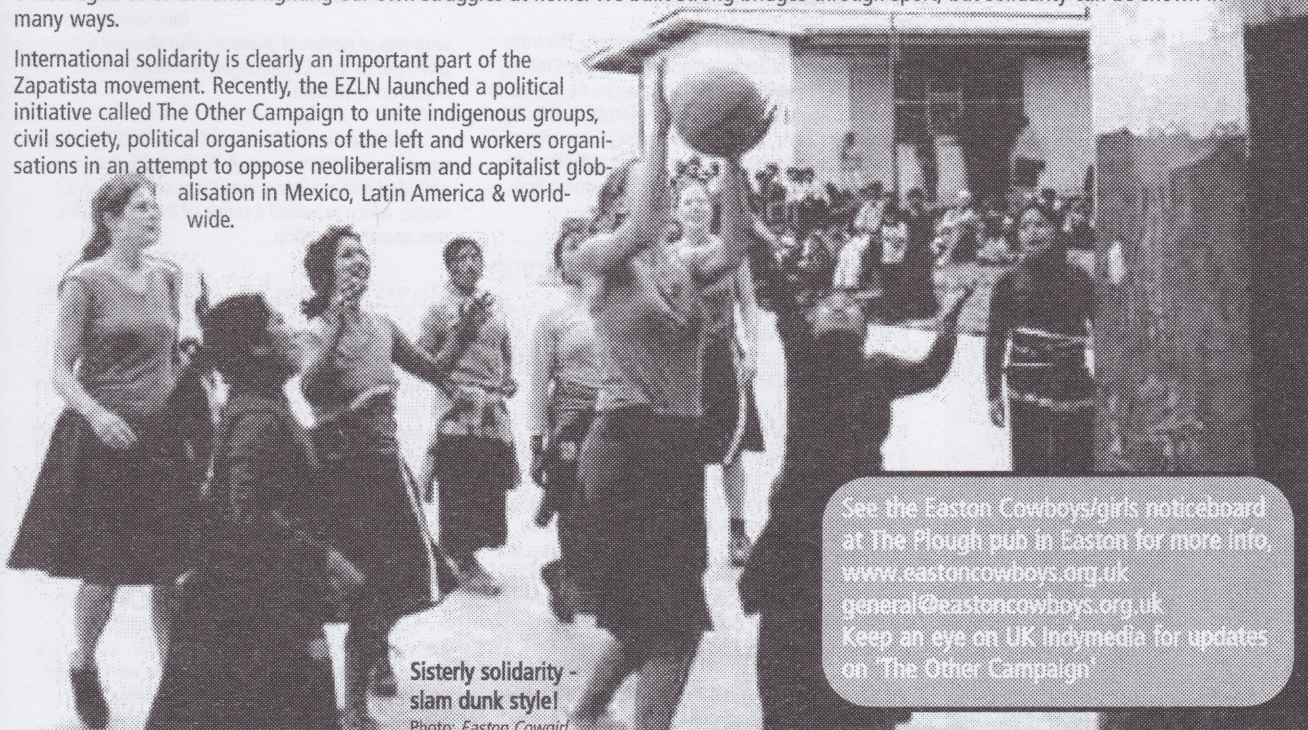
The situation for women in the movement seems to vary considerably in each community. However, the women's movement has been an integral part of the EZLN since it's conception and it continues to grow. Through playing basketball in the different villages, we noticed that in some we barely saw the women, whereas in others they were very much a part of the public sphere. When we visited the Junta, which is the central decision making body for a number of communities, it was predominantly led by women. Similarly, the mural project we worked on was groundbreaking in that it was designed by women and was the first time in that particular community that women had been elected to participate in such a project.

No booze equals less domestic violence

Women have also been central in creating and maintaining the cultural values of the EZLN. In the early stages of the uprising, women pushed for and achieved a complete ban on alcohol in order to reduce instances of domestic violence and ensure that money is better spent.

Building links with Zapatista women through playing basketball was an amazing experience and it was inspiring to witness a more democratic and sustainable way of living. The people we met were very welcoming and appreciated the gesture of solidarity. They encouraged us to continue fighting our own struggles at home. We built strong bridges through sport, but solidarity can be shown in many ways.

International solidarity is clearly an important part of the Zapatista movement. Recently, the EZLN launched a political initiative called The Other Campaign to unite indigenous groups, civil society, political organisations of the left and workers organisations in an attempt to oppose neoliberalism and capitalist globalisation in Mexico, Latin America & worldwide.



Sisterly solidarity - slam dunk style!

Photo: Easton Cowgirl

See the Easton Cowboys/girls noticeboard at The Plough pub in Easton for more info, www.eastoncowboys.org.uk general@eastoncowboys.org.uk Keep an eye on UK Indymedia for updates on 'The Other Campaign'

Forsvar (defend)

Bristle's visit to Christiania coincided with May Day 2006. It is a place that has a 30-year history of struggle against the state, its various governments and its policy enforcers the police. Our investigations hope to give you an idea of the need for solidarity both locally and internationally to keep such places growing and building. What follows is a report of our findings and some reflections.

A city ruled by its inhabitants

Christiania's birth was in 1971, when people began to inhabit a former military barracks abandoned by the army, the land being left needlessly polluted and buildings empty. A magazine called Hoved-Bladet gave a call-out with the headline 'Emigrate with bus number 8'. The result was a massive immigration of people who wanted to create an alternative life of communal living. Christiania presently has nearly one thousand inhabitants and covers an area of 85 acres.

The state gets nervous

There have been numerous occasions since Christiania was established that the police have tried to remove the people. Obviously such a place is a bone of contention for them. To allow a Freetown where people could organise themselves effectively made the need for Government redundant. Their attempts were in vain as removing so many people covering such a large area proved to be too difficult. So they left Christiania as a social experiment, in the hope it would fail.

Christiania evolves

People came in droves over the years from the dismal institutions around Copenhagen. They mucked in and the bounties of co-operation and mutual aid grew. A communal bath was built; a children's house, garbage recycling and communal workshops were developed. Over the years Governments were elected and replaced; each of



them made attempts to evict the Freetown but huge mobilisations numbering thousands of people prevented it.

The Police - not needed, not wanted

In the 1980's heroin was introduced to Denmark. The Government saw its chance at the time; a violent smear campaign against Christiania was started calling it the 'Narcotics centre of Northern Europe'. It failed miserably, as instead of the residents casting out such people, the Freetown took matters into their own hands, instituting a programme for drying out junkies and taking action against street dealers. A 'blockade against junk' was set up - either the junkies dry out or get out. Today, Christiania has little or no problems with hard drug use compared to the rest of Denmark. Christiania chooses to give support and help people who are

so the fourth children's institute was built. The Freetown created a website which more than a million users have since visited. In 1997 Christiania introduced its own local currency the 'LON' which can be used in its shops and businesses. A Post Office was built, a regular newspaper and radio station was established. 33 public toilets were built for the increasing number of tourists. Christiania is now the third biggest tourist destination in Denmark.

A right-wing Government Declares all out war on Christiania

In 2003 a new set of parasites came to power. The aim of this new Government was to bulldoze and 'normalise' Christiania, building houses for the rich. Another smear campaign was launched.

Officials accused the inhabitants of Christiania as being 'poorly educated' and 'needy'. Christiania responded with a 'State of Self Governance Report' in a public-relations offensive. The report documents that self-government works and has created a functioning town



'outcasts' in the 'straight' part of society. The irony is the Ministry of Social Affairs quietly gives money to Christiania to deal with such people. At one point postcards were distributed to the Danish public by the Government with a picture of such an outcast with the caption 'Would you like this individual to be your neighbour?' It obviously suites them fine that such individuals are all in one place.

Self Governance Blooms

Meanwhile repairs are made by the Freetown to the more than 100-year-old water system. Houseboats are established on the moat. Youth accommodation is set up and a Cabaret Theatre is developed.

In the 1990's the police in battle dress started a campaign of surveillance. At times dangerous situations occurred after they incited trouble using batons and tear gas. Many innocent people, school children and random tourists were bodily searched. As a result co-operation with lawyers and Amnesty International led to efforts to stop police harassment and intimidation. Patrolling was shortly suspended after the police's violent attack on the Christmas market in 1994.

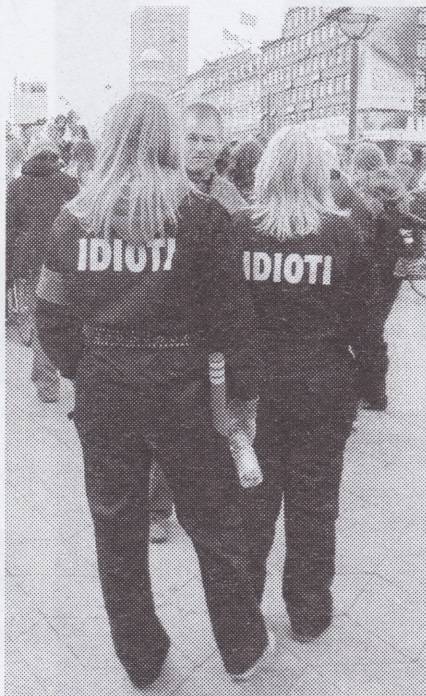
With some degree of protection in the mid-nineties the number of children grew in Christiania so much

with lots of potential. A report also showed that three out of four Copenhagen residents wished the Freetown to remain.

An open day was declared and over 100,000 people came to view the success. A 'Right to Diversity Day' unfolded and a cultural event was set up with 22 stages which provided a range of live music. This was anarchy in action.

Christiania fights on

Denmark's present Government are hoping to destroy collective ownership and privatise the area by throwing it to the real estate market. Their hope? To make it like the rest of society, a place where money dictates the lives of people. Recently 200 riot police stormed the free state in one of the biggest mass arrests in Danish history. There was a police presence hovering around throughout our stay. They would come into the cafés usually in groups, unsmiling clones, looking for any reason to kick off. They looked a little annoyed as we smiled, laughed and socialised. There was nothing they could pick on, no spark for them to wade in or justify their presence. The staff monitored them with cam-cords, in case of police misbehaviour. Shame we thought they're not being useful and fighting real crime outside of Christiania.



Christiania!

FOR DIVERSITY, COMMUNITY AND SOLIDARITY

60,000 attended May Day. We realised the stranglehold in our own country was so much tighter where to get such an event off the ground is difficult and usually contained through violence and threats, with a Section 60 such as that imposed in Oxford Street in London in recent years. Christiania represents community and such mobilisations run more smoothly as there is strength in sheer numbers. Bristle only hopes the breathing hole that Christiania represents continues to grow so we can all breathe. It shows the importance of international solidarity and the realisation that their struggle is also ours. Even by visiting Christiania you are supporting their economy. It certainly undermines the main economy as food and drink is half the price. So 'Forsvar Christiania!'



ATIPICAL
DANISH

FFI:

www.christiania.org or www.forsvarchristiania.dk
info@forsvarchristiania
Infolade 69 – Christiania's anarchist bookshop on Pusher's Street (stocks Bristle!).
Radio Christiania can be found at 90.4 mhz FM & 87.6 hybrid.

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The 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in the UK is in 2007. Bristol City Council is to put £250,000 into the celebrations. Council Leader, Barbara Janke, announced in February; 'Bristol is extremely proud to be invited by the Deputy Prime Minister to play such a major role in this very important national commemoration... The council's one-off contribution will help lever in [additional funding] of perhaps tens or hundreds of thousands of pounds' This can then be invested in the city for everyone's benefit.'

But who are these celebrations for? The same divisions as under slavery are still there. The master is the government, the slave traders/overseers are the council, and the slave descendant - still the slave. This is a celebration in the master's image. The way the master wants the celebrations to look.

BLACK COMMUNITY/SLAVE CHILDREN

When talking about the 'Black community', what do you mean? Not the Nigerian, not the Somali, for example, although they are black. It's black people taken from Africa as slaves. The only thing the descendants from slavery, the slave children, identify themselves with is that they are Black, or that they are Afro-Caribbean - not African.

SEPARATION AND SUFFERATION

The slave children have been separated so long from each other we cannot speak as one voice. After the so called uprising in St Paul's in the 1980s (the riots), the master councillor called in a few of the Black people and give them certain jobs of certain wages, to say, 'keep down the rest'. Two on the inside - who get it and have it, but one million out, who do not get it. The two then refuse to help the one million.

The slave children are divided, and have been divided from the time of slavery. The indoor slave will cook and wash and look after the master,

which is his so-called slaves owner. The outdoor one work the field day and night, 'nuff time he will be getting beating from the indoor slave for whatever reason, could be simple as having a nap after 23 hour work.

The indoor slave is always more educated than the outdoor slave. Education is the key, but the outdoor slaves weren't allowed education. The indoor slave was more likely to be able to read - he was closer to the master. When council call in 'representatives' of the Black community for to consult on the 2007 abolition celebration, who do they call? The indoor slave.

'CONSULTATION'

John Prescott has come to Bristol several times to enquire what the Black people want to do for celebration. In his last visit, he came to enquire to the youths and the elderly. The youth have not yet gained their knowledge and wisdom, the elderly have lost all identity of the true African manifesto, beaten down from 500 years of slavery and its aftermath. Who is missing? You can now think for yourself and see what has been planned from government level to ground level.

ST PAUL'S CARNIVAL

So, 2006 carnival is cancelled to make a big 2007 celebration party, a decision made by Council and the Carnival Committee. No consultation was

POWER IN WHOSE HANDS?

made with African descent people in St Paul's. Many of us are poor and poor people need the pleasure and enjoyment of carnival as it was set up for in the beginning. Carnival also brings people of all races together in a party and a mingling. Would they consult with us if we were not poor?

JUSTICE, REPATRIATION, COMPENSATION

They talk of the abolition of slavery but no one has asked whether we wish to go home and set up new lives in Africa, or to visit once in their lifetime before they pass away. Some of us have that desire.

We need to rebuild a land and also the people, when they so desire. That's equal rights. The slave children is scattered around the world. The most that governments, monarchies, and nations can do for us is to help us, financially and geographically. This would be better than any celebration anyone could ask for. What a celebration!

by Ras Bandele

Rastafarian Cultural Centre
136a Grosevenor Road
St Paul's
Bristol

bristle 22

DEATH TO THE 'DEATH GRIP' — HERALDING A NEW ERA FOR KEBELE

Chances are if you're a regular reader of Bristle you'll know of 'Kebele', as it has played a prominent role in Bristol's activist community for more than a decade...but for those of you who haven't yet been introduced, Kebele Kulture Projekt is based in Robertson Road in Easton.

Kebele runs a weekly vegan café and bike workshop. There is a radical library, internet access, and info/book stall. There are film nights, exhibition and meeting space — all for hire by donation. The Projekt is run by volunteers, according to anarchist principles. So far this year activities have included banner-making workshops, café and film nights hosted by Queer Mutiny, a Beltane Gathering, 'Art Not Oil' exhibition by local artist David Thomas, campaign meetings, and catering for Packers Field May Day event and a climate change camp planning meeting.

From the illegal, to the secure

It's eleven years since the former squat collective formed a housing co-op in order to keep the space going when faced with eviction by the bank that was repossessing the building. Since then the rent from residents has covered the mortgage and most bills, allowing Kebele to maintain a meeting place for people interested in creating an alternative to the capitalist consumer society we live in.

This summer Kebele is celebrating paying off its mortgage (aka the death-grip)! Without the financial burden of a mortgage there are new and exciting possibilities for its future direction. In January a few Kebele-ites attended a national social centre gathering in Leeds. They addressed the question of how social centres could support one another and achieve their political potential to be powerful forces for social change. The gathering was inspiring and revived the hopes and dreams for what Kebele could achieve in Bristol.

Staying horizontal, getting organised

As a result of the gathering Kebele decided to create separate collectives to be responsible for various aspects of what happens at the Projekt. Currently there are five collectives (plus the housing co-op), some in their infancy, others more fully-fledged and operational: café, maintenance, bike workshop, arts/exhibition, and publications. The aim is to make meetings more functional and more accessible to newcomers who want to get involved. Each collective is largely autonomous, making decisions relevant to their collective, and then reports back monthly to the main 'core' Kebele meeting, where decisions with wider implications are discussed. We hope to make meetings snappier, more effective and relevant — without the need for everybody to be involved in every detail of each collective. If you would like to get involved in any of these collectives Kebele always welcomes new people who have some time, energy and commitment.

Presently we are working to set up a Community Co-op that will create an appropriate (legal) structure for Kebele — whilst resolving the historical difficulty of describing the relationship between Kebele Kulture Projekt and Kebele Housing Co-op. In the past the lack of clarity about roles, responsibilities and membership has contributed to a lot of the work falling onto the residents. This has made their position an unenviable one. Part of the work of setting up the Community Co-op will be to describe the roles and responsibilities of its members, and put structures and policies in place that will make the workings of Kebele transparent and therefore more accessible to newcomers.

The current proposal is for the housing co-op to transfer its assets to the new Community Co-op. Whilst the new co-op would takeover the tenancies of Kebele's existing residents, it would also consider the possibility of winding down the housing as existing tenants leave, and then using the whole building as a social & resource centre. There would still remain an option to provide affordable social housing in the future, but perhaps in a more suitable building that won't compromise the comfort & sanity of its tenants!



Kebele's front view — in need of a face-lift
Photo: Bristle



New ideas? Get involved!

The perceived benefits include a greater sense of ownership of the building by the 'community', no more wondering 'Will the residents mind?' Kebele would remain as a base for campaigns, plus there would be potential for more user-friendly space to provide a greater range of activities. Suggestions have included low-cost complimentary therapy rooms, screen-printing, community arts & crafts space, children's area, parents group, 'drop-ins' to encourage wider local involvement and skill sharing, adult literacy, community gardening, breakfasts, and free shop.

Kebele will be holding an open meeting to encourage participation & feedback from interested parties (excluding political parties of course!)

For more info contact:

kebelesocialcentre@riseup.net

Tel 0117 9399469

14 Robertson Rd, Easton, Bristol, BS5 6JY



One of Kebele's excellent wall murals
Photo: Jenny P

Over the past few months, the government and the media have highlighted the low rate of convictions resulting from reported rapes (if not the increase in such reports!). Avon and Somerset is below the national conviction rate, but this applies to all reported crimes and not only to rape. We could just write off our local police as being incredibly ineffectual, for a variety of reasons: poorly trained, under-resourced, political pawns etc. Or we could recognise that the criminal justice system is a flawed mechanism that has its origins in protecting the property of the ruling classes that will never be able to solve the problems of inter-personal violence. However, it is very alarming to have statistical evidence that stopping rapists is clearly not a high priority in our society.



BY JANE DOE

NO IFS, NO BUTS, NO MEANS

NO

Although a few anarchists like to take the "lock them up and throw away the key" attitude towards any individual who is accused of sexual assault (regardless of whether the accusation is true), there is also a long tradition of anarchists supporting the abolition of prisons. They appreciate that every prisoner is a political prisoner because every 'crime' is rooted in the larger societal context. This does not provide an excuse for rape, but raises the question of why this kind of violence takes place and what is the best way of dealing with it, even before it happens.

A CROSS-CULTURAL HORROR

Rape has been going on for a long time in a variety of cultures. It is unnecessary to argue that our current social system, capitalism, is accelerating the occurrence of rape, especially when we consider what is going on in societies formally at war. There, women and children are systematically raped, as a means of diminishing the 'value' of the 'property' that are our wives, daughters, mothers and sisters. It is also important to remember that the response to rape varies from culture to culture and, in some parts of the world, the raped woman is considered just as responsible as the rapist man, and she will be punished severely, sometimes losing her

life. Of course, some judges in the UK believe that rape cannot happen when a woman is too drunk to give proper consent, implying that it is okay to force sex upon someone if they are not in a sufficiently powerful position to say no. What message does this deliver to those who abuse children, the elderly, and anyone else who has been deemed intellectually incapable of defining their needs?

WE ARE NOT A POSSESSION

Capitalism's contribution to the rape problem starts with the objectification of all humans, using men, women and children to sell whatever it is that needs to be bought. In so doing, capitalism may have re-contextualised rape in richer countries as an aggressive act of material acquisitiveness, much like stealing a very expensive car and setting it alight after a night of joy-riding. Capitalism also teaches us that individual greed is a good thing, to be pursued at all costs, so raping, stealing and murdering are all okay as long as you can get away with it, much like the contractors & foreign armies in Iraq today.

What does perpetuate the occurrence of rape, if not increase the frequency, is hierarchy. Wherever and whenever one person can be considered more worthy or powerful than another, acts such as rape will follow. The challenge for all of us, and especially those of us who claim to be anarchists/libertarians, is to struggle against our learned tendencies to exploit one another and ourselves for personal gain. San Francisco Bay anarchists put together a self-help zine, addressing what they call intimate violence (see info). It is an interesting

example of how we can work together as communities to address the after-effects of rape, domestic violence, child abuse, etc... But the question still remains: How do we prevent such acts of violence occurring?

HELP, INFO & IDEAS



Rape Crisis help page:
www.rapecrisis.org.uk/law.html



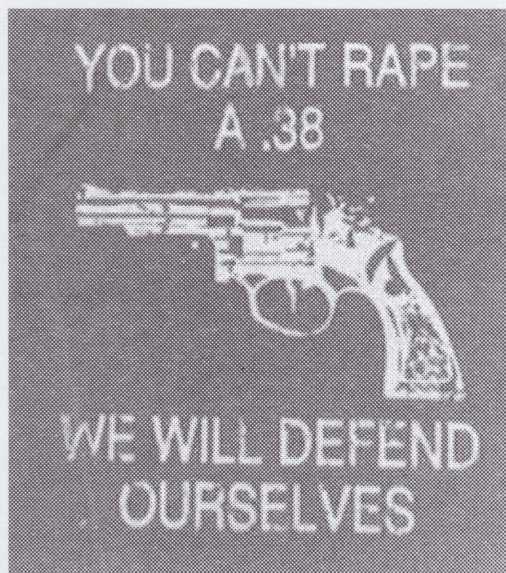
Rape conviction rates:
www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/index.asp?PageID=2



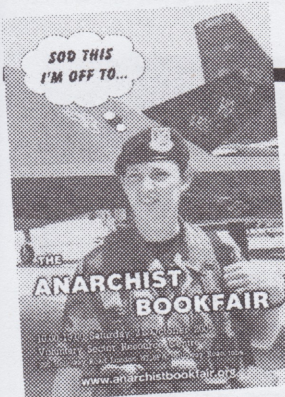
Anarcha website resources page:
www.anarcha.org/sallydarity/index.php



San Francisco Bay Anarchists' zine on addressing intimate violence:
<http://sfbay-anarchists.org/intimateviolencezine/IntViolzine.pdf>



Is this the only way for women to be safe?



THE 25TH ANNUAL ANARCHIST BOOKFAIR

10am-7pm Saturday 21 October 2006
www.anarchistbookfair.org

Voluntary Sector Resource Centre
356 Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA. Holloway Road tube.

With over 70 groups offering all kinds of information about anarchism and meetings on a wide range of subjects, whether you know nothing about anarchism or think you know everything - there will be something at this year's bookfair for all.

At the Bookfair this year:

- over 70 groups with: books, leaflets + newsletters, videos, music, t-shirts & more
- meetings, discussions and workshops
- films
- crèche (ages 2-10, max. 12 children at a time)

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD

The controversial south west based environmental scientist, James Lovelock, spoke in May at the Festival of Ideas in Bristol. Lovelock was covering the themes expanded on in his recent book 'The Revenge of Gaia' (published by Penguin last February). He repeated his assertion that civilisation is basically fucked, as a result of climate change and our misuse of the planet.

Essentially he believes billions will die, and infers that just a few will remain. It seems likely this elite few would be drawn from the ranks of the rich and powerful, creating and protecting some sort of haven, or series of havens. Such a scenario is not as far-fetched as it seems, such havens already exist. Most serious scientists, environmentalists, even politicians, increasingly agree that **time is running out to reverse the effects of climate change, and to avert a human tragedy of catastrophic proportions.** Most Bristle readers would agree too. However, many of us hope, if not believe, that we can reverse the damage done, whilst Lovelock believes it is too late. We disagree further over how this may be done.

AS WE KNOW IT AND I FEEL FINE!

The planet is sick, but is nuclear the medicine?

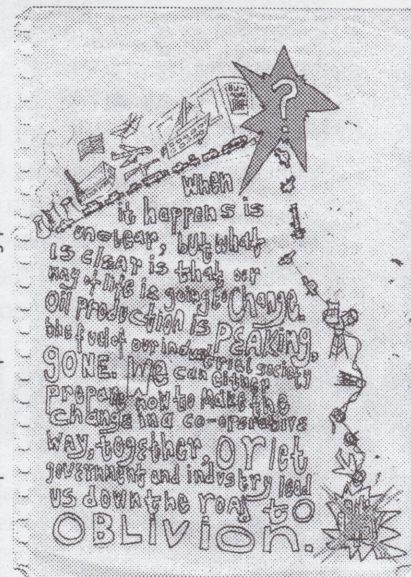
Lovelock is seen as a bit of a greenie. In the 1970's he evolved the 'Gaia Theory' of planetary self-regulation. This sees the planet as a living super-organism. Currently it is getting sick, and will do what is necessary to get better. But that may take 100,000 years during which time humanity will not exist – think ice age or similar. Lovelock's only current solution to extending humanity's planetary presence is to change from burning fossil fuels for energy, to a reliance on nuclear energy. He dismisses 'alternative energy' sources as insufficient. He argues that nuclear energy is less harmful, and has suggested that a life shortened by the effects of radiation, is preferable to the present situation. One doubts the victims of nuclear bombs, or those born deformed after nuclear leaks, would agree. Nor has he resolved the issues of security around nuclear plants, and the unknown long-term effects of nuclear waste. (See Bristle 21 for our assault on nuclear).

Tony Blair agrees with him. NuLabours 'consultation' on future energy resources is over before it started; **Blair has already declared 'the future is nuclear'**. Once again no real debate as NuLabour remain in the pockets of big business, and we are talking very big business. Lovelock himself has been pro-nuclear since at least 1996 when he joined the emerging Association of Environmentalists for Nuclear Energy.

Green capitalists?

Lovelock is a longstanding member of the establishment, having worked with NASA and at some of the very elite universities here and in the US, and has been suitably honoured by royalty. It is not unusual for prominent greenies to have such a background. Take Jonathan Porritt – baronet, Cambridge graduate, employed by NuLabour, who believes only capitalism can save the planet. Or Zac Goldsmith – editor of the Ecologist, the mag founded by his super rich uncle, an old-Etonian and inheritor of the Goldsmith fortune, and recent convert to the Tory party. Such greens are only good for slicing!

IMAGE: Graphic from <http://istuffit.org/peak/>



Says MH

"THESE GREENS ARE PRO-CAPITALIST. THEY CALL FOR SOME TINKERING HERE AND THERE, LOCAL CAPITALISM OR FAIRER TRADE, OR SUSTAINABLE CAPITALIST DEVELOPMENT."

These greens are pro-capitalist. They call for some tinkering here and there, local capitalism or fairer trade, or sustainable capitalist development. By so doing they blur the real choices available to us. Climate change does not mean sunnier beaches at Weston, it means bye-bye to much of Bristol, the UK, and billions worldwide. Lovelock is unusually blunt in his apocalyptic prophecies, but he and they are incapable of acknowledging the fundamental societal changes required to avert the process humanity has started, and incapable of understanding that capitalism by its very nature is simply no longer sustainable.

Be the change you want to see

We already allow millions to starve or live in poverty or be ill because they can't afford not to be. We allow wars to continue for resources, or start as one set of lunatics tries to stop another bunch getting what they already have – nuclear power & weapons. We won't cut back on our over-consumption and greed, then criticise those elsewhere for desiring the same. We ask why change our ways when others don't, as we rush like lemmings to the cliff edge.

If we don't start to change, here and now, in ways small and large, it'll be too late and too big a change to countenance. **Something has to change, either capitalism goes or its goodbye to life on the planet.** We say capitalism must go. We know we won't be allowed into those havens for the rich if it doesn't. It's the end of the world as we know it, and I feel fine.

BRISTOL RADICAL HISTORY WEEK

28 Oct – 5 Nov 2006
AT VARIOUS VENUES.

All the history you are not supposed to know about – riots, workers struggles, anti-slavery, suffragettes, and much more
More info – gardsteingang@yahoo.co.uk or dodger@irational.org

climate change camp

26 Aug – 4 Sept 2006

SOMEWHERE IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

It's time to wake up to the realities of climate change. It's here, it's going to get worse before it gets better, and governments and corporations aren't going to fix it for us.

www.climatecamp.org.uk

Reviews

The Sweet Memory Sounds of DJ Derek (Trojan Records, 2006)

BY CHURCH

Sixty four year old Derek Serpell-Morris was born in St Andrews, Bristol. His first brush with music was playing a Washboard with the Vampire Skiffle Group in the late 50's. It wasn't until the late 70's that he started DJ-ing at the Star and Garter Pub, a well known haunt within the thriving Jamaican community of St Pauls, Bristol. Since then he has travelled globally among the festival circuits chilling us to the bone with his music.

Derek at first glance could be mistaken for Jarvis Cocker's old man. Grey suited, small in stature, he is a man with a discreet but impressionable presence. His gravel voice breaks between records. He has a habit, as he works us into a marshmallow mush, of pushing his thick-rimmed glasses up his nose, and mumbling something Rasta. Usually I don't get a jot of it, apart from 'Yeah man, it's a dread ina here init' or something like that. Licks of old skool Reggae/Ska rock us into a slipstream. He's really worth checking out if you get the chance, the guy's a dude.

Unfortunately for us in white middle class Bath, now our beloved Hat & Feather has been sanitised into a corporate, soulless space for the unappreciating mind and murdered, we see neither head nor tail of the man. But fear not, you can now hear some of his tunes on 'Sweet Memory Sounds', released on Trojan Records. Commencing with the first record he ever bought by 'Derek Morgan' taking us through to the likes of 'Delroy Wilson', 'Max Romeo' and 'Toots & The Maytals'.

It's a bloody good listen, the tracks run smoothly into each other and much thought has gone into his selection of tunes. The only disappointment, our Derek doesn't 'Present' each record as the cover suggests. His voice sadly isn't heard once throughout its play, although a comprehensive reason for his choice of record is given on the inside cover.

He still remains very much a live experience and can be seen doing regular slots at Bristol's Match Box and the Farm in St Werburghs. Still, grab yourself a copy, it makes a wonderful backdrop when you've got the mood on.



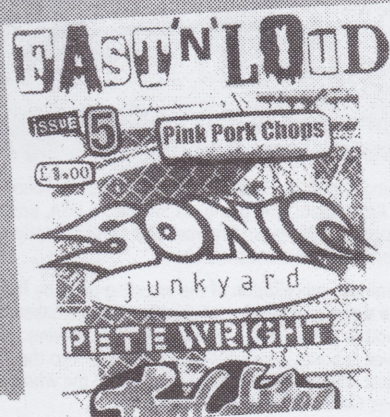
The Slits / Don Letts

At The Trinity Community Centre, 28 April 2006

BY MR ANGRY!

I don't normally bother when bands from my youth reform, but the prospect of seeing three of the original Slits line up from the late '70's was enticing. Then, when 3 weeks beforehand the legendary punk & reggae DJ Don Letts was added to the bill, it became irresistible, even at £11 a ticket. So tickets were purchased, childcare sorted, and a cracking night anticipated.

Then suddenly, on the night, a call from friends to advise the gig was cancelled. The promoters mumbled something about the band 'not being ready', what, after 25 years? But then the word coming from those in the know was different – a week before the gig The Slits asked for double their money, and the promoter couldn't afford it. You tossers. Whatever happened to DIY? Well its no more heroes for me, no more expensive tickets for old bands fleecing their old fans. Fuck off and don't bother coming back to Bristol.



Fast'n'Loud No.5 zine / Seen it all before Crass zine

BY MH

Straight outta Gloucester, Fast'n'Loud is a surprisingly well put together zine, despite its cut'n'paste look, and is very much immersed in the underground DIY punk scene. There's an intriguing mix of the old – Ian Lowery (Ski Patrol), The Softies, and an insightful interview with Pete Wright of Crass fame; and the new – Pink Pork Chops, Sonic Junkyard. Plus plenty of zine, album & gig reviews, distro info, cheekiness and a healthy smattering of anarchy.

The Crass zine correctly describes itself as 'a scrapbook on anarcho legends Crass'. Original press cuttings & reviews, interviews and Crass's own writings. A welcome nostalgia trip for old punks, an eye opener for new punks. Aha, those were the days! All profits from it go to Crass's Dial House. Be cool dear reader, and get both these zines!

Fast'n'Loud no.5 – 32 page A4, £1.50 post paid. No.6 out soon.

Crass zine – 62 page A4, £3 plus 56p SAE

Both from Fast'n'Loud, 88 Overbrook Rd, Hardwicke, Gloucester, GL2 4RZ. Email contact fastnloud@bushinternet.com

CD Review: Surfin' Turnips: Cider Swillin' Adventures on the High Seas (Cider City Records, 2006)

BY STEVE

You know all about cyberpunk now get cyderpunk. Sounds like these root vegetables with attitude bolted from the same stable as fellow cyderheads The Wuzzuks (ex Chaos UK) that punked up wurzel rock during the late 1990s. Jamer Turnip (guitar), Titch Turnip (bass), Matt Pants (drums) and Ian O'Mighty Star (accordion) hammer out bawdy self-composted tributes to the happy apple juice and

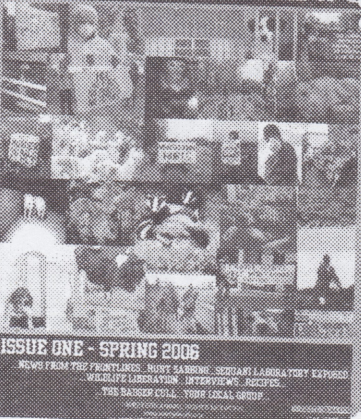
some stomping tributes to The Wurzels. Good for a flagon of larffs and absolutely essential listening if you live within a square mile of Stokes Croft and have a serious fermented apple addiction. Lock up yer orchards!

It seems these cyderspace-cadets can be contacted at: <http://www.myspace/surfinturnips>



Reviews

WARN NEWS



Review: WARN NEWS

BY BIANCÉE

Glossy, good-looking first issue of new coalition newsletter – WARN News is out now! Western Animal Rights Network, 'WARN' – is a grassroots group who've produced this interesting and informative read in the format of a professional looking magazine.

It consolidates contact details for all local groups and brings to light all manners of animal rights activity – with a calendar of events, reporting on recent actions and developments.

The current issue of WARN News discusses vivisection, exposes the Sequani lab, foxhunting and sabbings, and the proposed badger cull. It also includes 'Vegan outreach' with vegan news, recipes, issues and events. The 'For the kids' page, features an interview with Andy Davies, youth campaigner and vocalist in local band 'Routine Check.'

The layout's good, easily read, eye-catching and packed with great photos – from demos to banners, fluffy bunnies, wildlife, and an extensive collection of redcoats with their offensive gestures!

If none of this interests you, buy it anyway – if only to play 'spot the dodgy typos'!

Suggested donation £1, available from Kebele, Bath Animal Action, Bristol Animal Rights Coalition, From Ashes Rise, or direct from the WARN website: www.warnnetwork.org

Film Review

Glastonbury: The Movie (2006, Directed by Julien Temple, with a cast of thousands)

BY STEVE

Fence wars, mud and mutants, brewed-up tatterdemalions, wacky hats and acrobats. This is not a slick re-run of TV concert clips but a far more interesting exploration of the issues behind Glastonbury Festival. Julien Temple (director of Pandaemonium and The Filth and the Fury) bravely waded through the mud of over a thousand hours of footage, often supplied by regular festival-goers, to document the history of Glasto. The result is an artfully compiled selection of images that captures the heady mix of the stoned, ridiculous, bizarre and the inspired. The film avoids glorifying or demonising the festival with all its high points and conflicts.

In some ways the narrative of the summer festival movement parallels the broader history of recent decades. The spontaneous creativity of the early flowerpower days blossomed into a movement of thousands that represented a threat to interests of the state as huge gatherings at Glastonbury and Stonehenge became police-free zones. A combination of brutal authoritarian clampdown exemplified by the Battle of the Beanfield and the failure to self-manage by tackling internal problems such as hard drugs and brew-crew intimidation undermined the heyday of free festivals during the late Eighties and Nineties. By 2005 even host Michael Eavis appeared to have ambiguous feelings about the way that Glastonbury had lost its edge. The festival's size increasingly made it a honeypot for egotists with cash-register eyes, quick to spot a scene to exploit and finally sell-out to corporate interests. For some old-timers the surveillance and fortifications created a sense of being imprisoned in a Fortress Glastonbury. However, Glastonbury the Movie is a celebration of how much summer festivals have been a part of our life experience in the West Country and a reminder of how rich and ripe they are for reclaiming by the counterculture.

Film Review: V For Vendetta

BY BOYD

When is a good film not a good film? V for Vendetta is a cracker, about as good as a Hollywood money-grabbing exercise could be, in fact. The script tears along nicely, the anti-fash message is on the money and there's even a few ironic laughs (the bover boys in blue will always be Storm Saxons for me from now on!). Sub plots like the 'prison' letter tugs the heartstrings, the players all play their parts well, and the anarcho-rabble will be a/roused when the Old Bailey and the Houses of Cadre-Munts are given the Guy Fawkes treatment. A solid 2 thumbs up.

So, when is a good film not a good film? When the book it's based on is a million times better. Alan Moore's graphic novel of the same name is the woodland faerie ring to the film's gaudy grotto, and it's the discovery of what the film chooses to leave out that damns it. Moore's V is an Anarchist, knows it, and isn't shy about showing it. He isn't the unhinged madman that the film offers up, his acts of 'terror' are knowingly constructed with a defined purpose – the destruction of the fascist state and freedom for the mentally-imprisoned population. The novel is set in the 1980's and suffers a bit from 'things didn't turn out that way' syndrome (a feeling familiar to Marxists everywhere), but its depiction of a possible fascist future is more relevant today than ever before. The backstory of the rise of the religious dictatorship is completely believable, and it makes you think how far we're already along the way to the darkest of realities. Overall, however, the book is uplifting and thought provoking – and yes, of course, we win in the end.

See www.aforanarchy.org for more details

The Wedding Party

At The Chelsea Inn, Easton, 15 April 2006

BY TIM

One of the world's longest running wedding celebrations culminated in a raucous night in Easton. Starting over 3 weeks earlier in Amsterdam, and going via Sweden & USA, Bristle mag founder and Easton media activist and legend-in-his-worn-lifetime John Serpico finally made it home to celebrate his nuptials. He even brought the missus with him.

Notwithstanding a shoddy last minute cancellation of the wedding party by The Plough, and an urgent booking at the Chelsea, a significant number of drinkers, troublemakers and alleged friends staggered down the road for another pint or ten. Entertained by DJ's playing some classic punk and reggae, and by local live faves Spanner, some guests were forced into the garden by the ear-splitting racket, but only one guest collapsed lifelessly to the floor in the whole night. And not a window was broken. No speeches were made either. Old punks eh!

John and Nic are believed to be happily married and living abroad. We wish them all the best!

JAY.....obituary

by Ginga Jody a.k.a the Toad

Jay died from burns a week after his truck mysteriously caught fire, under the M32 flyover, near The Black Swan, Easton, Bristol. Police are treating it as suspicious.

Jay was my best friend, he was 26 when he left us. He grew up in St. George, Bristol, although he was born in Cork, Southern Ireland. He had so many different friends from all walks of life and will be missed by all of them. He had a bright, witty and wacky sense of humour and a fiery, outgoing personality. I admired his lust for life and loyalty for his friends. I'm sure his daughter Ivy (1year 8months) would have thought the world of him, if she had met him as an adult. I know I'm not the only one who will have lots of funny stories to tell Ivy about her dad. A group of Jays close friends are planting a tree with a plaque in his favourite place in St. Georges Park, Bristol.

"Jay, we all miss you. Goodnight and Godbless. See you in the next life mate, loads of love." Jody a.k.a - Toad, on behalf of the Bristol underground scene, your daughter Ivy & family.

contacts

PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO LOCAL/REGIONAL GRASSROOTS GROUPS
THAT ARE ORGANIZED ON A NON-HIERARCHICAL BASIS.

Arf (Punk Zine)

Yeomans, 49 St James Street, South Petherton,
Somerset TA13 5BN.

Avalon Fair Shares

(Glastonbury LETS scheme)
01458 831118
avalonfairshares@cooptel.net

Avon Organic Group

0117 971 9077
avonorganicgroup@onetel.com

Bath Cycle Campaign

01225 483223
info@bathcyclingcampaign.org.uk
www.bathcyclingcampaign.org.uk

Bath Stop the War Coalition

www.bathstopwar.org.uk
Postmaster@bathstopwar.org.uk

Bristol Activists Forum

Bristol Activists accepts posts on a wide range of
political issues and events. To join send a blank email
to: bristol-activists-subscribe@yahooogroups.com

Bristol Area Concern

(Group set up to seek effective consultation with
the planners and developers of the proposed Arena
complex at Temple Meads)
0117 904 3461
www.bristolarenaconcern.org.uk
amrogers@blueyonder.co.uk

Bristol Campaign Against Arms Trade

http://www.bristolcaat.org.uk
perlofreeman@yahoo.co.uk

Bristol Colombia Solidarity Group

www.columbiasolidarity.org.uk
bristolcolombiasolidarity@gmail.com

Bristol Critical Mass

bristolcriticalmass@riseup.net

Bristol Cycling Campaign

www.bristolcyclingcampaign.org.uk
info@bristolcyclingcampaign.org.uk

Bristol Defend the Asylum Seekers Campaign

0117 944 1481
www.asylumbristol.org.uk
asylumbristol@yahoo.co.uk

Bristol Genetix Group

6 The Manor House, Park Lane, Bristol BS2 8BE
0117 927 6322

Bristol Housing Action Movement

0795 725 4045

Bristol Indymedia

submit your own news and use the
calendar to list events
bristolindymedia@hust.com
http://bristol.indymedia.org
(Also UK Indymedia - http://www.indymedia.org)

Bristol Palestine Solidarity Campaign

0117 941 3135
witenagemot2@tiscali.co.uk
www.palestinesolidaritycampaign.org

Bristol Peace Vigil

(City Centre opp. Hippodrome:
Mon-Fri 5.30-6.30pm; Sat 3-4pm)
bristolpeacevigil@yahoo.co.uk

Bristol Permaculture Group

0117 955 3959
Bristol_permaculture@yahoo.co.uk
www.bristolfoe.org.uk/bpg

Bristol Prisoners' Support Group (ABC)

www.geocities.com/bristol_abc
bristol_abc@yahoo.co.uk

Bristol Skill Share

(post requests for skills you need or would like to learn;
offer skills you could teach to other people)
bristolskillshare@yahoo.co.uk

Bristol Social Forum

bristolsocialforum@yahoo.co.uk
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bristolsocialforum

Bristol Stop the War Coalition

bristolstopwar@hotmail.com

Bristol Temporary Autonomous Artists

taa_bristol@hotmail.co.uk
www.bristolinsurgentart.co.uk

Bristol Venezuela Solidarity Group

http://venezuelasolidarity.org.uk/ven/web/bristol/
bristol.html
karenbell50@hotmail.com

Cannabis in Avalon

(campaigns for environmental benefits of hemp)
01458 833236
PO Box 2223, Glastonbury BA6 9YU
www.cannabis.uk.net

Cardiff Anarchist Network

cardiffanarchists@riseup.net
http://riseup.net/cardiffanarchists/index.htm

Castle Cary contact for Genetics Engineering Network

01749 860689
louise@ukonline.co.uk

Common Voice

(Electronic Journal of Non-Market, Anti-State Ideas)
http://www.cvoice.org
worldincommon@blueyonder.co.uk

The Cube Cinema

Dove Street South (Off Kings Square), Bristol BS2 8JD.
0117 907 4190
www.cubecinema.com
cubeadmin@micropix.cubecinema.com

Dialect Community Radio Project

7 Armada Place, Bristol
0117 942 9281 (Bristol Broadband Co-operative)

Dwell Well

(Support for low-impact housing and
sustainable lifestyles)
0845 4581497
www.dwellwell.org
enquiries@dwelwell.org

Easton Cowboys and Cowgirls

www.eastoncowboys.org.uk
general@eastoncowboys.org.uk

Eco-Village Network UK (EVNUK)

PO Box 1410, Bristol BS99 3JP
0117 373 0346

Euskal Info

(Basque Information)
www.euskalinfo.org.uk
euskalinfo@kebele.com

Everlong

(punk zine)
7 Nicholas Lane, St George, Bristol BS5 8TY.

Glastonbury GE Group

01458 834787

Graphic Attack

(subverts and art)
www.graphicattack.org.uk
info@graphicattack.org.uk

Gwent Anarchists

PO Box 70, Newport NP20 5XX
gwentanarchists@yahoo.co.uk
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Gwentanarchists

Kebele Kulture Projekt

14 Robertson Road, Easton, Bristol BS5 6JY.
0117 939 9469
kebelesocialcentre@riseup.net

Kiptik (Zapatista Solidarity Group)

www.kiptik.buz.org
kiptik@buz.org

The Land

(South west based land rights mag)
01460249204
http://www.tlio.org.uk

Leftism

(Dance nights for local causes)
The Crown, Bathwick
http://www.leftism.co.uk
mike@leftism.plus.com

Libcom.org

(Anarchist & libertarian newswire, resource & forums,
including for south west)
www.libcom.org

Mapuche International Link

0117 927 9391
www.members.aol.com/mapulink

The Pitchfork

(Non-Corporate A4 free information newsletter for the
West Country)
The-Pitchfork@hotmail.com

Queer Mutiny Group - Bristol

('Queer, proud and anti-capitalist')
www.queermutinybristol.org.uk
queermutinybristol@riseup.net

Reclaim Bristol's Buses

www.reclaimthebuses.org
reclaimbristolsbuses@gmail.com

Reclaim the Pool

(Local campaign to maintain Bristol North
Baths as a public space)
reclaimthepool@googlemail.com

Road Block

(anti-roads group)
01803 847649 or 07854 693067
www.roadblock.org.uk
office@roadblock.org.uk

Shellfish Network

0117 942 5524

Solidarity Bristol

(part of anarchist-syndicalist Solidarity Federation)
http://www.solfed.org.uk
solidaritybristol@operamail.com

Somerset Against GE

01749 813787

South West Scratch the Surface Forum

(online forum for punk, ska and beyond)
www.scratchthesurface.co.uk

Spanner

Bristle's top anarcho-ska-punk band
www.spannerintheworks.net

SWAN Network

PO Box 70, Newport, NP1 0Y

Swindon Against GMOs

01793 790438
sbriley@gn.apc.org

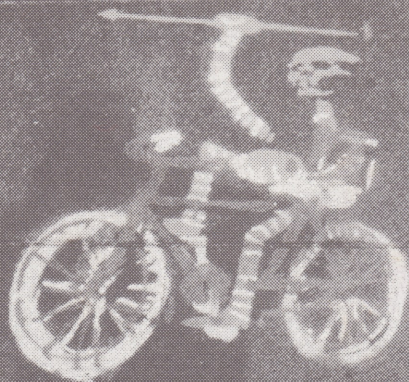
Transform Drug Policy Foundation

0117 941 5810
http://www.tdpf.org.uk/
info@tdpf.org.uk

Western Animal Rights network (WARN)

Regional contact/listings & news for groups across the
south west
http://www.warnetwork.org

"YOUR ANARCHO-ANTI-GLOBALISATION-
THINK-GLOBAL-ACT-LOCAL-DIRECT-ACTION
MAGAZINE WITH GOOD LISTINGS OF LOCAL
CAMPAIGNING GROUPS." (CHEERS TO IAN
BONE, THE NAKED GUIDE TO BRISTOL, P. 109).



ride free
or revolt



EDIE THE BEAR IS
A BOLD NEW FIGHTER



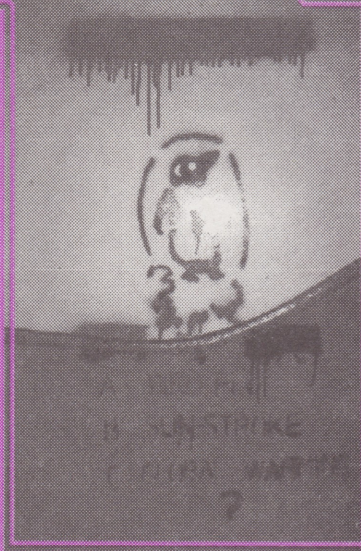
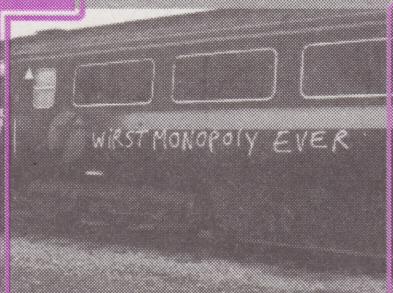
DISSIDENT



CHOOSE LIFE

LIAR

LIAR



WIRST MONOPOLY EVER

if you love something
set it free

FREE THE COMMUNITY
FESTIVAL

Orange Broadband .open

JCDecaux



KNICKERS
ON
FIRE

DOWN WITH
BIG BROTHER

GOLD
TICKET

FIND ONE
FOR YOUR CHANCE
TO BE A
HOUSEMATE



GET USED TO
BEING WATCHED



WEAPON NO. 01